Bunny killer discharged

page three

Women's rugby loss

page fifteen

Hate living, love dead

page thirteen

Screaming at the non-pod people to stop misrepresenting reality for 57 years.

MARTLET

Thursday, September 30, 2004 | The University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper | www.martlet.ca | Volume 57, Issue 8

Observing human rights in Chiapas

pages eight and nine

TIM BOUTLBEE PHOTO | D. H. ILLUSTRATION

Saskatchewan canola farmer blasts biotech giant

Monsanto accused of contaminating crops

by Tim Hanson

Former Saskatchewan canola farmer Percy Schmeiser gave a UVic crowd an earful Tuesday when he lambasted biotech giant Monsanto. He accused Monsanto of theft, trespassing, intimidating Saskatchewan farmers and contaminating privately developed canola with genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

Schmeiser had never heard of the transnational corporation Monsanto until he received notice in 1998 that the farming corporation he owned with his wife was being sued for patent infringement. With 50 years of experience working the land, the Schmeisers were shocked and scared.

"I just couldn't believe that we were being sued, and we were immediately afraid that our seed had been contaminated," he said.

Schmeiser and his wife Louise have been farming in Bruno, Sask., for over half a century. Through selective harvesting, the pair developed a particularly high-yield and disease-resistant variety of canola seed. This variety of canola can be planted and harvested from the same field every year, as opposed to conventional canola fields that must remain fallow for three years before each harvest.

The Schmeisers confirmed their worst fears when they started spraying Roundup, a chemical pesticide produced by Monsanto, on their canola crops. They were alarmed to see that small percentages of canola survived the spraying. Roundup usually exterminates any plant or weed that competes with canola for nutrients, though it also destroys some of the canola it is designed to protect.

After their patent on Roundup expired, Monsanto had engineered a non-naturally occurring canola gene that essentially renders canola crops impervious to Roundup. The Roundup-indifferent canola meant the Schmeisers' crops were not only contaminated with a GMO, but they may have been selling gene-patented produce without knowing it.

Schmeiser was worried about introducing GMOs into the farming community because of their impact on the environment.

"There is no such thing as co-existence in the wild and no such thing as containment in the wild," explained Schmeiser. "[Monsanto's] GMOs are engineered to be the dominant species."

Throughout the court proceedings, Monsanto claimed its genetically modified canola would not spread because farmers would be restricted from using it. Schmeiser disputed this evidence and at the talk provided photographs of thriving Monsanto canola growing in fields, ditches and even in residential areas of Bruno. Schmeiser argued that contamination occurred from cross-pollination and from seed movement via the wind and animals.

The courts ignored this explanation and instead favored arguments from Monsanto's expert witness who dismissed Schmeiser's theories.

With the Schmeisers, however, Monsanto was just warming up. Dozens of Saskatchewan farming families near Bruno have also been threatened over patent infringement. Letters from the multinational biotech corporation often threaten seizure of home and property and damages to the tune of $150,000 to $450,000.

On top of harassing and extorting farmers by snail mail, Monsanto also hired an ex-RCMP officer to bully local farmers for having produced Monsanto canola without a licence. Monsanto personnel have taken to trespassing on farmers' properties, alleged Schmeiser, and have stolen their crops. Monsanto even offers a snitch line for farmers wishing to turn in their neighbours.

"In addition to a cash reward, they'll even give you a Monsanto leather jacket," exclaimed Schmeiser, who later held the chemical and seed manufacturing giant responsible for generating a culture of fear and intimidation while disrupting "the rural, social fabric."

What made this case so sensational in both public and legal circles was the January 2004 ruling. In a split decision, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that the Schmeisers' use of the genetically altered canola breeched Monsanto's claim of monopolized use. The court also ruled that the Schmeisers used the canola with the aim of earning a profit.

The ruling essentially gave Monsanto patent rights to a canola plant that has been released into the wild. The ruling is controversial because it flies in the face of previous case law.

In 2002, Harvard College vs. Canada appeared before the court, which established that an organism grown from a non-natural gene could not be patented.

The case dealt with Harvard College researchers who had modified the genes of a mouse and later sought a patent on the mouse itself. The Supreme Court denied their request and pointed to jurisprudence that does not allow the patenting of nature or natural processes.

The court ruled that granting a patent to the researchers would essentially be the same as granting a patent on life. Some legal authorities have said that this is exactly what happened in Schmeiser vs. Monsanto.

TIM HANSON PHOTO

Perry Schmeiser was sued by multinational biotech corporation Monsanto over patented GMO canola crops. He spoke on campus last Tuesday.

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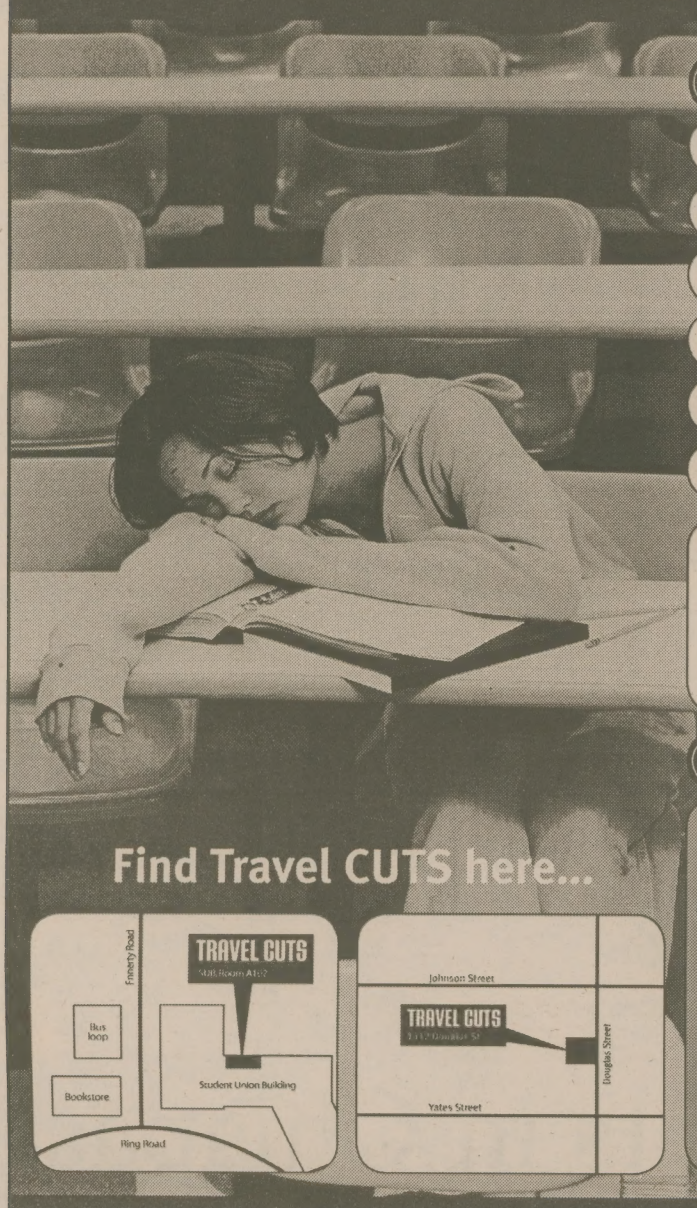

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NEWS BRIEFS

Bolshevik asked to move on over skipped paper work

Golaleh Pashmforoosh, a self-identified socialist, came to UVic to spread the socialist word. She didn't get very far.

When Campus Security Services and a University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS) director-at-large told her she was not allowed to be on the sidewalk without a permit, she said she had every right to claim the public space.

"This is absurd," she said.

"It's not about bureaucratic paperwork—they don't like what we [the Trotskyist League] have to say."

Security officer Charles Bates was on the scene and explained that any group independent of the university or the UVSS requires a permit to set up a table. He confirmed that Pashmforoosh did not have one.

Opting to leave and avoid any involvement with "the state," Pashmforoosh packed away her newsletters and placards while she continued to hand out information.

"We don't want to be confrontational. If they have a message they wish to convey, then they are more than welcome to obtain a permit from the board," said UVSS director-at-large Tom Grainger.

—*M.S.*

Student threatens to sue UVic

Cam Murton claims he is going to sue UVic over injuries he received during a fight on campus last fall.

Murton, now 19, suffered life-threatening injuries when he was punched outside residential buildings on Sept. 2, 2003.

He was knocked unconscious and spent one month in hospital, delaying his return to school until January.

Brennan Doucette has been charged with aggravated assault. According to witnesses, both Murton and Doucette were intoxicated.

UVic and local police took no chances with a repeat of last year's rowdy start-of-the-year festivities—last weekend's SUB party included a heavy police presence, and Saanich RCMP have been fining residents for open alcohol.

—*B.H.*

UVic bunny killer given discharge

by Ford Walker

The president of the Student Animal Legal Defence Fund (SALDF) is furious that Nicholas Campbell, convicted last week of unnecessary cruelty to animals, has been given an absolute discharge because he wants to become a lawyer.

"We find the inability of the court to effectively deal with matters regarding animal cruelty to be disturbing," said Shannon Elliot on behalf of the SALDF and the UVic Vegan Association. "There is a clear connection between animal abuse and violence to humans. We must address all incidents of cruelty in order to encourage compassion in our society."

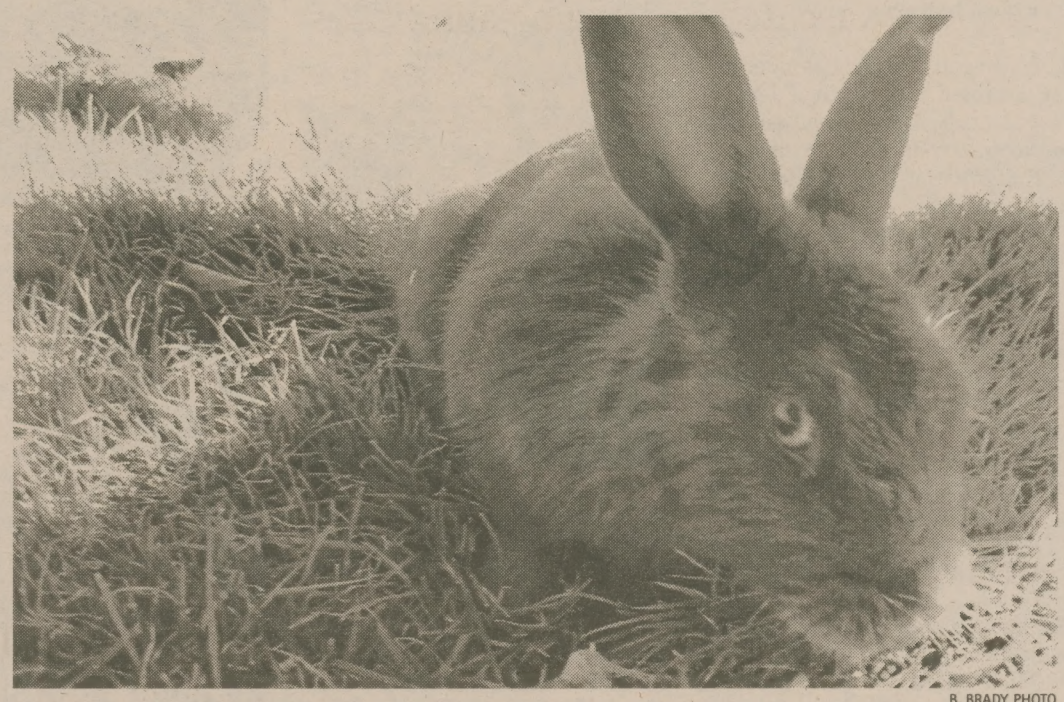
At a trial on Sept. 21, Campbell pleaded guilty to the charge of unnecessary cruelty to animals. Crown counsel Ron Parsons agreed with the judge overhearing the case that Campbell did not deserve a criminal record, as they were sure the jury of the court of public opinion was already out. Also, Campbell's ambition to become a lawyer played toward the lack of sentencing.

Elliot called the consideration given to Campbell due to his desire to become a lawyer "outlandish."

"We would like to determine exactly how many laws Campbell, or anyone else 'planning to be a lawyer,' has to break before they are charged and convicted," she said.

On Feb. 6, a heavily intoxicated Campbell and an anonymous friend thought it was a good idea to catch a rabbit on campus. While the specifics are clouded, what is certain is that Campbell caught a rabbit by throwing a blanket over it. The rabbit proceeded to bite him on the hand, which prompted Campbell strike the rabbit with his fists.

Severely injured, the rabbit was rushed to Elk Lake Veterinary Hospital where it died in spite of efforts to treat the animal.



B. BRADY PHOTO

Looking into the ear of a bunny is like looking into its soul.

"The veterinarian said the rabbit was vocalizing loudly, which is unusual for a rabbit and may be an indication of the extreme pain it was suffering," said Hugh Coghill, a senior animal protection officer for the B.C. SPCA.

Under the Criminal Code of Canada, had Campbell killed the animal immediately he would not have been charged with a crime, a fact Parsons said he found ironic. It was the fact that the animal had suffered that made the act punishable.

The crime itself comes with a hefty maximum penalty of six months jail time, a $2,000 fine and a prohibition on pet ownership for two years. The usual punishment, however, is only a $400 fine or probation. The SPCA says that less than one-third of one per cent of cruelty to animals crimes lead to criminal charges.

The trial itself was moved from Victoria to Nanaimo after an appeal made during the first hearing on June 24. The judge witnessing the proceedings felt that a trial in Victoria could not be fair and had it moved.

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The University of Victoria Native Students Union is holding its Annual General Meeting on Monday, October 29, 2004 in the Student Union Building, room B025 from 4:00-6:00 pm. NSU invites all self-identified Aboriginal undergraduate, graduate and alumni students to attend.
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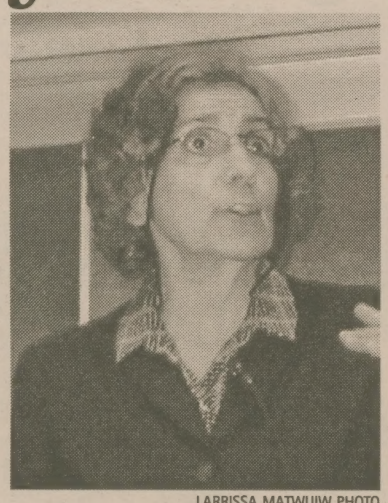
Nader says 'no'

by Kate Thompson



LARRISSA MATWIJIW PHOTO

Dr. Laura Nader, sister to presidential hopeful Ralph Nader, condemned the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

The invasion of Iraq is plunder being disguised as the birth of democracy, a professor of social cultural anthropology from the University of California at Berkeley told students last week.

Dr. Laura Nader's lecture, "Law and the Frontier of Illegalities - Iraq and Democracy," was part of the Lansdowne Lecture Series at UVic. She spoke for over an hour about the importance of challenging Western assumptions and ideologies.

"There's an illegal system in place in Iraq," said Nader. "There's going to be a big struggle there."

Nader, who earned her PhD at Harvard and has taught at Berkeley since 1960, went on to talk about her disgust with American foreign policy.

"Other countries must obey the Geneva Convention, but the U.S. is exempt," she said.

Nader pointed out that American politics have been "incrementally moving to the right" since Ronald Reagan took office, and she referred to the Bush administration as "brazen cowboys." She condemned the way the current administration has attempted to bring American-style democracy to Iraq through force when most of the occupying soldiers cannot even communicate with those they are trying to influence in their native tongue.

"It's always the other system or the other culture that lacks," she said. "When we attempt to shape them, whoever 'them' is, we end up shaping us as well."

In a question period that lasted nearly an hour and a half, the audience had a chance to vent some of their frustrations and ask some tough questions—some of which Nader was not able to answer. One man asked her who he should vote for in the upcoming American election. Although she is the older sister of Ralph Nader, the Green Party independent candidate running for president, she told him he would have to make that call on his own.

Mehdi Majar, a former NDP candidate and host of the show "Hidden News" on UVic's CFUV radio station, came to see Nader because he likes her brother and wanted to hear what she had to say.

"I think it was reassuring to see someone from the U.S. criticizing the war," said Majar, who immigrated to North America from Iran 17 years ago. "When we see the media here, we think all the Americans think the same way, and they don't. The majority of Americans do not support the war."

So what does Nader think the Americans should do now that they have had their war and much of Iraq is in ruins?

"Set a date and start building," she said. "Hire Iraqi builders to rebuild their own country."

LARRISSA MATWIJIW PHOTO

24 hours to push the bug; 24 hours to go . . .

UVic Engineers free-ride around the ring during the ninth-annual Bug Push.

UVic students shine for charity

by Matthew Gauk

Shinerama has made its way onto campus.

The national fundraiser for cystic fibrosis is celebrating its 40th anniversary of raising money and awareness in the battle against this genetic disease. Last Friday saw UVic's contribution, with a bake sale, car wash, and citywide shoe and window shining.

Cystic fibrosis, which affects the lungs and digestive system, is often diagnosed in childhood or adolescence and therefore affects a large number of students in one way or another. Shinerama is a nationwide campus benefit put on by many post-secondary institutions and is usually done as part of Frosh Week in order to get new students involved.

The event started in Ontario and Quebec where tens of thousands of dollars are raised annually, with students throwing barbecues and selling tickets to organized events. In British Columbia and the West in general, Shinerama has had a slower start, though the University of British Columbia and the University of Northern British Columbia have both had successful campaigns of their own.

The UVic organizers, headed by campaign director Jordan Dolson, drummed up support on Club and Course Union Days and put up flyers and posters all over campus.

On Friday, they set up a table by the fountain and sent 27 volunteers off in small teams to a number of locations. Cadboro Bay volunteers shined and shampooed shoes, the downtown teams washed windows with squeegees, UVic's women's rugby team polished up athletic gear, and the car wash at Shelbourne Street and Cedar Hill Cross Road was in full swing for both morning and afternoon shifts.

UVic's first Shinerama campaign was organized at the last minute.

"In late August, I just impulsively decided to start a UVic campaign up," said Dolson. She contacted the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in Toronto and got the go-ahead.

While UVic's Shinerama fell short of its goal of $2,000, it did raise over $600 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

"It's Victoria," said Dolson. "There aren't a whole lot of shine-able shoes here."

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Toronto Dance Theatre: Kristy Kennedy and William Yong in *Persephone's Lunch*. Photo by Cylla von Tiedemann.

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Equity crisis 'moving forward'

by Jonathan Chapnick

A sense of progress and calm was enjoyed last Friday as law students and faculty met for the second time this year to discuss equity and diversity issues at the law school.

The meeting followed up on a fiery and emotional March meeting to discuss the law faculty appointment process. The goal was to hear feedback and student input regarding developments made since March and to revisit equity and diversity concerns that had caused much grief and turmoil at the first meeting.

"A crisis erupted here," announced second-year law student Shaunagh Stikeman, referring to the March meeting. "[There is] a rift between upstairs and downstairs."

Before a reserved but attentive crowd in the Fraser Building student lounge, Stikeman, representing the Special Ad Hoc Committee on Appointments, described the hostility and mistrust that emerged between faculty and students before the summer.

But she went on to speak positively—although cautiously—about proposed changes to the hiring process, which are intended to increase transparency, inclusiveness and accountability, and to incorporate equity and diversity considerations into each stage of faculty appointments.

On behalf of the Human Rights Law Club, Chira Chilliak described the new appointment guidelines as a step in the right direction, but emphasized that they "must be applied in good faith."

In a more critical statement, the

NIC HUME PHOTO

Shaunagh Stikeman describes feelings of mistrust and hostility in the law department.

Dean's Women's Advisory Committee representative, Helen Scott, insisted that, although the organization was pleased with the progress made since the March crisis, the law school should hire an internal liaison between students and faculty to provide support to students who "want to speak out but can't" on equity and diversity issues.

-Similarly, while most in attendance were optimistic, several students pointed to challenges yet to be addressed.

"Equity has got to be more than just a numbers game," remarked one student concerned with limitations and lack of diversity in courses being offered and taught by female professors.

Another student emphasized incorporating equity and diversity considerations into current course materials and teaching practices. And one student was upset by the lack of a clear framework for dealing with offensive in-class behaviour.

"Who should people go to?" she asked in frustration. "What mechanisms are in place?"

Overall, the mood in the student lounge reflected the mild and sunny Friday afternoon weather.

Several upper-year students who attended in March embraced the meeting's large turnout as a sign that equity and diversity issues have been internalized in the law school. First-year students seemed encouraged by the discussion, with one praising the "extreme care" taken by professors and staff to make the law school community "as comfortable as possible."

Faculty members spoke positively during and after the meeting. "It's remarkable that we're discussing these issues," commented Prof. Maneesha Deckha, who described the faculty as "moving forward."

Stikeman, though, was apprehensive about the lack of spark and fire at the second meeting.

"It's not so much of a pressure cooker," she explained, expressing worry that "people will become complacent."

Unlike the first meeting that was held to address student outcry over the controversial hiring of a new faculty member, Tuesday's meeting had "no real concrete issue on the table," she noted. Although pleased that "community meetings on equity have become entrenched and difficult discussions concerning diversity have become normalized," Stikeman indicated that there is more work to be done.

"You've got to continue to push," she said.

Women ready to Take Back the Night

by Erica Czerny

Victoria women are gearing up to Take Back the Night on Oct. 1. They will march in solidarity, celebrating the collective strength women possess.

The march began in 1973 in England as a statement from women that they did not feel safe walking at night and felt threatened by violence against them. This year, the event begins at St. Ann's Academy, and the march takes place in Beacon Hill Park, an area identified by Victorian women as a place they don't feel safe being in at night. The march, originally downtown, was moved this year so that women could "take back" a larger piece of Victoria.

There is a pre-march rally for the whole community, not just women but men and children too. It's important for all self-identified women to participate in the march, said Jen Cooper, co-ordinator of the UVic Women's Centre, for a broader sense of community involvement. Women are encouraged to bring their children, friends, family, and especially noisemakers.

To jazz up the nigh,t there will be female musicians as well as community activist speakers. For the first time ever, there will be a discussion group for men, who can learn how to be allies against sexual assault. The discussion will take place during the women's march. Afterwards, there will be an on-site gathering for discussion and refreshments.

The event is fully accessible and open to everyone. The march begins and ends at St. Ann's Academy on Humboldt Street, Oct. 1 between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. For more information or if you want to volunteer, contact Jen Cooper at the UVic Women's Centre at (250) 721-8353.

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Editorial

Canada should give refuge to deserters

It's been almost seven months since 19-year-old Brandon Hughey drove overnight from Fort Hood, Texas, ditched his Mustang in Indianapolis, and slipped into Canada, telling a border guard he was entering to see a basketball game.

The former tank driver enlisted into the U.S. Army two years ago, lured into military service by slick advertising and the promise of a college education. But when his unit was getting ready to ship off to Iraq, Hughley objected and was denied a discharge. He fled to Canada, hoping to find refuge from what he saw as an illegal and unprovoked war.

He is one of two U.S. soldiers who have filed high-profile refugee claims—the other is 25-year-old Jeremy Hinzman. They have a valid argument: the United Nations says that soldiers who refuse to fight in a war condemned by the international community have a basis for a refugee claim. Indeed, soldiers have a responsibility to refuse orders that violate the law.

Two weeks ago UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan told the BBC that, from the UN Charter point of view, the invasion of Iraq was illegal. Many legal experts have said that the invasion violated international law. Although some may grumble that Hughey and Hinzman are betraying their soldiers' duty, the two did the right thing, and their objections aren't without precedent.

From 1965-73, more than 50,000 draft-age Americans left their country to avoid being pressed into service for the Vietnam War. "Those who make the conscientious judgment that they must not participate in this war ... have my complete sympathy," said Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau. "Canada should be a refuge from militarism."

Of course, our immigration policy was more lax in those days, which made crossing the border much easier. Immigrant status could be sought once applicants were settled in Canada, and those who showed up at the border with a job offer were granted "landed immigrant" status on the spot. Now, landed status must be applied for from outside the country, and applicants have to wade through bureaucratic red tape before getting an answer.

The most obvious difference between then and now is that Hughey and Hinzman voluntarily signed up for service—they weren't forced into uniform by a draft as during the Vietnam era. The two enlisted men must have known they would be expected to fight wars. But not this kind.

Attacking a country that was no threat to the United States is "not part of defending your country," said Hughey, "and it's not something that I'm willing to kill someone else or lose my own life for."

If the two are successful in their requests, it will surely open a floodgate for other soldiers who feel they are being sacrificed to wage an illegal war.

The War Resisters Support Campaign—a loose coalition of community organizations—has started a petition urging the federal government to give sanctuary to U.S. war resistors.

A number of prominent Canadians, including Maude Barlow, David Suzuki, Naomi Klein and even filmmaker David Cronenberg have signed the petition. You should too, and not just because celebrities did it first.

Sending these men (and others who may have fled but have successfully avoided the spotlight) back to the U.S. would be a mistake. They would face considerable jail time—even the death penalty—for doing what is ultimately the right thing.

It's going to be an overt slap in the face of the United States, which is considered to be our closest ally. But this kind of step is necessary for Canada to assert its higher moral stance and autonomy from U.S. foreign policy. Canada refused to join the "coalition of the willing" because the country, and indeed much of the world, disagreed with the invasion. How can we punish people for agreeing with us?

Trudeau was right: we should be a refuge from the kind of blatant, merciless militarism that the U.S. administration has embraced in its "war on terror." Ask your MPs to take action.

Editorial topics are decided at weekly editorial meetings and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of all staff members.

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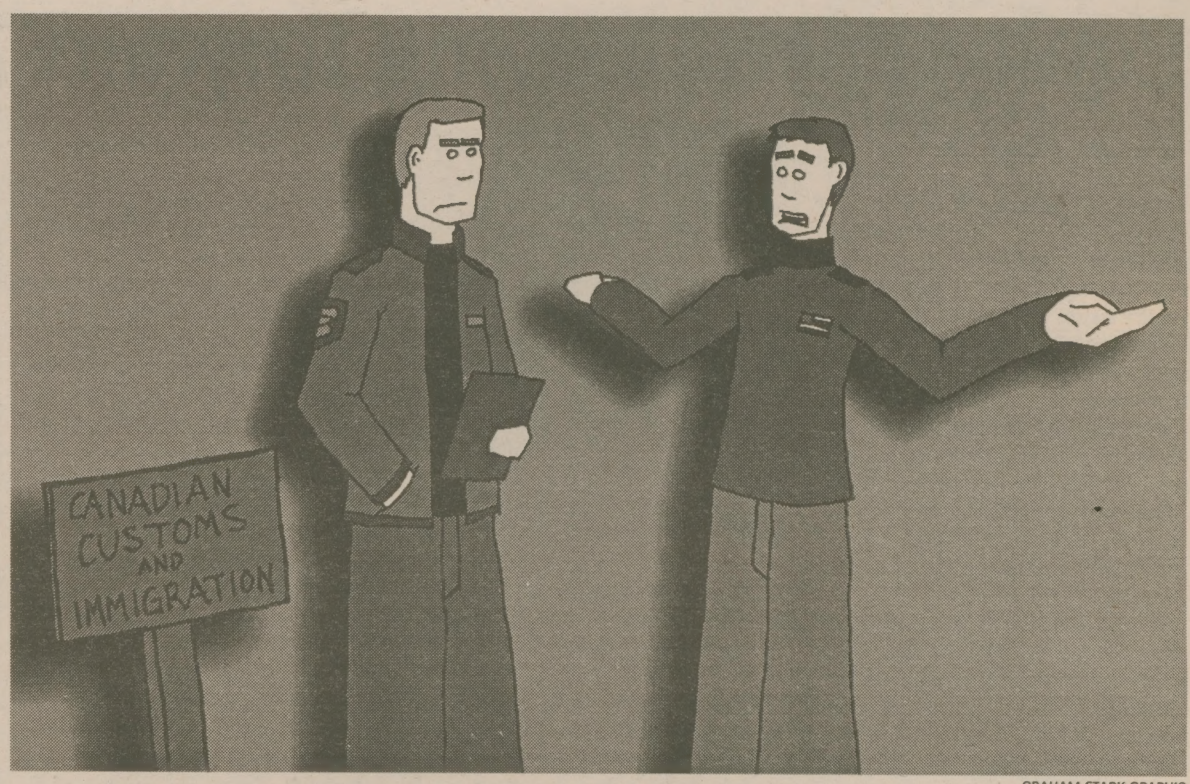


GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

"Well sure I joined the army, but then they wanted me to shoot people and stuff. So I figured, screw this, I'm going to Canada!"

Good times, bloody walls

by Sacha Narine

The host of this particular party is a tall, imposing young man, boisterous and entertaining. He's wearing a tinfoil toga and a silver hockey mask with tinfoil horns. Decorative stars hang from the ceiling, and, more often than not, something is glowing. My teeth look green and monstrous under the blacklights. A small gathering escalates to a crowded party. A crowded party overflows into bad behaviour, and violence. I was about to throw in the tired sentence, "It happens all too often," but then I realised that it doesn't. In the past two years, I've witnessed violence at only a handful of house parties. I never participate, and for good reason: I go out to have a good time, and good times don't include split lips, blood-stained walls and regret.

I assume that regret is a large factor in social outbursts—like fights at parties—because it plays into most other poor decisions. I regret treating people badly, making the wrong choices, acting insincerely, and, above all else, causing violence.

My experience with parties and bars is limited, but I've seen enough to conclude one thing: violence, for some people, is recreation. I suppose it's a male sensation, the urge to damage another human being, but I can't claim that women are immune. Whoever commits the violence certainly hopes to gain something from it, don't they? If all human actions are performed in the pursuit of pleasure (or the desire to eradicate pain), then surely fighting, causing damage, is a pleasurable pursuit. Perhaps it is only pleasurable to the conflicted mind, because alcohol, subnormal intelligence and adrenaline all contribute to the initiation of violence. Those three factors are often related.

I made an attempt to clear some young men out of the house after the onset of a fight, and one of them remarked, "Get your fucking hands off me. Don't fucking touch me, man."

Fair enough. I took my hand off his shoulder and politely asked him to step outside. He and his friends left, but not without getting a good, long look at the awkward carnage, a mass of tangled bodies, one man with a bloodied mouth, inching up the stairs.

Aggression is infectious. As soon as it escapes the human heart, it crawls into other hearts and urges them to commit violence. From an intellectual standpoint, it's discomforting to see one primal emotion overcome a crowd of young men in so short a period of time. The destructive behaviour of two partygoers spread immediately to 10 or 12 others. I myself felt a quiet urge to forcefully eject intruders from the party, but I did not.

Is violence simply an unwanted side effect of heavy drinking, or is it a requisite outlet for youth anger and discontent? More importantly, why is it pleasurable? We know that in the vein of competitive sports and academic competition, fighting is direct confrontation between two opponents, and the winner must feel a sense of empowerment upon defeating his/her opponent. Domination—power over another human being—is the pleasure associated with fighting. Additionally, the intention to fight and the act of fighting itself, win or lose, are expressions of confidence and fearlessness, two ideologically masculine qualities. I say "ideologically" because, in reality, no man is fearless nor universally confident. What matters is not that these qualities are real, but that they seem real.

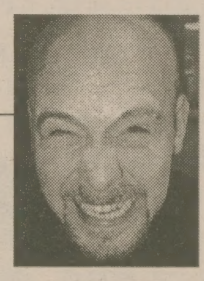
Ultimately, fighting is an attempt to realize an unattainable masculine ideal of courage, confidence, apathy and strength. This ideal man is one who cares little for his own safety, fears nothing but inactivity and is ready and willing to exert his power, physical or otherwise, over other human beings.

The next time you encounter violence at a party, a bar, or any social gathering, stop yourself and try to deconstruct your own initial response. Are you attracted to the violence? Do you want to break it up?

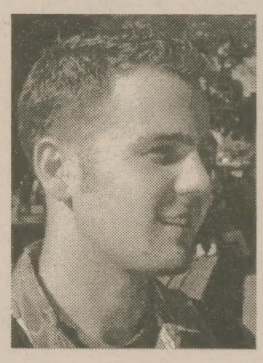
And pay attention to the behaviour of those around you. In situations of violence, our initial responses are born of instinct and emotion, not reason. Your "help" may not help at all, and causing more violence, as noble or heroic as it may seem, is self-serving, animalistic and wholly unnecessary.

ON THE SPOT

with Norman Ed Baskerville, defender of the bunnies



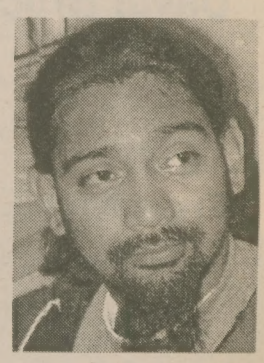
Last February, a UVic student beat a bunny on campus with his fist. He was charged, but got no criminal record or penalty. What do you think his punishment should have been?



Josh Contant
Some kind of sentence because other people get charged for not feeding their dog.

Indignant bunny
He should have a blanket thrown over him and be beaten to death.

Robyn Heath
Community service at the SPCA.



Hari Alluri
Put the campus bunnies on steriods and let them at him.

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The University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper

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Your fashion: it isn't punk

'Punk is not about the magazine cover featuring Avril Lavigne'

by Erika Win Den

Fishnet stockings emerging from heavy Doc Martens boots that lead up to a punk-style skirt, a ripped T-shirt (with no doubt a band name on it) and some funky hair to top it all off are all over campus. With this new addition of '80s fashion there's a little flash of pink in the corner of everyone's eye as they walk around campus. Yes, it's true—punk is in. Again.

Punk originated in the 1970s in London, England, as a way for youth to rebel against the oppressive fashion culture and to define their anarchism. Perhaps it is most often thought of as no hair or lots of it, chains that dangle from pockets, necks and wrists, and random shreds of fabric that originally came from thrift store purchases. Later on, fashion designers such as Zandra Rhodes and Versace caught on to the new trend craze and defaced the true meaning of punk's origin. These designers mocked the original safety pin look by making them out of gold and by choosing colours that appealed more to the majority of society. Much to the dismay of punk rockers, actresses such as Liz Hurley were wearing their style and turning punk into chic. Sadly, it seems this inconsistency never dies.

What I think needs to be made clear is that punk outfits are all about being original at a cheap price and with a shred of rebellion. Taking two shirts and making them into one by cutting twice, measuring once and sewing takes great skill and inventiveness. Buying a shirt that says "RIOT GRRRL!" and then sporting it with pre-cut jeans that cost $190 is not punk. I repeat, it is not punk.

The latter can almost seem contradictory, as fashion can be whatever you want it to be, but punk not only supports freedom of fashion entirely, but it defends it with this rationale: don't be a victim of consumerism.

So, now we are left with a music genre/fashion that screams autonomy but possesses rules . . . hmm, that seems hypocritical. Perhaps we shouldn't see them as "rules" but more as guidelines so as to steer people away from being walking imitations. In retrospect, punk is not about the magazine cover featuring Avril Lavigne or the bumper sticker that you swear by. It's about imagination and creativity. Let's keep it that way.

The surprising art of schmoozing

The Frog and Prince: Secrets of Positive Networking

by Michelle Martin

A networking workshop? Admittedly, it sounded like a bore, but curiosity prevailed and I found myself spending a Friday afternoon learning to schmooze with about 40 other co-op students and human relations workers.

Human relations specialists Gayle Hallgren-Rezac and Judy Thompson taught the diverse roomful the tricks of the trade and the gift of the gab in the grad lounge last Friday. To my surprise, schmoozing turned out to be a highly prescriptive, deliberate talent, sought after by many but perfected by few.

Hallgren-Rezac and Thompson even managed to convince me that schmoozing wasn't just for smooth-talking schmucks. With their motto for positive networking, "Discover what you can do for someone else," they managed to frame a successful schmooze-fest as a business venture in karma.

The well-dressed duo captured the audience's attention with catchy slogans that had an uncanny resemblance to daily horoscopes.

For example, did you know that the most important person you know you have not met yet? Sure, the statement is internally contradictory but when these two ladies said it, I believed it.

They began by discussing the token business handshake: firm, but not too tight, and hopefully sweat-free. They even recommended www.sweatmanagement.com to people with persistently perspiring palms.

Soon after, the group was asked to utilize the handshake while networking amongst each other. I extended my hand to a mechanical engineering student and told him that I was a writer. He responded by saying that he had heard that writing did not even exist as a profession. This spontaneous insult may have bothered me, but Hallgren-Rezac and Thompson's presentation eventually explained exactly what I was dealing with. This student was a prime example of a Bufo obnoxios, otherwise known as a toad.

This example of an unsuccessful schmooze really helped me to acknowledge the benefits of networking. Perhaps the whole student body should be offered the opportunity to hone in on this important life skill, especially considering that Hallgren-Rezac and Thompson's presentation was as witty and charismatic as it was informative. Their presentation was based on a book they co-authored with Darcy Rezac: *The Frog and Prince: Secrets of Positive Networking*.

During the presentation, the audience was able to place themselves on the Frog Chain. The five grouping categories range from the Royals (Amphibius rex), which includes networking masters such as Martha Piper and Donald Trump, to the Toads (Bufo obnoxios) at the bottom of the Frog Chain. These toads have mastered the art of backwards networking to the point where the rest of the frogs will go to great lengths to avoid associating with them.

Hallgren-Rezac and Thompson based their presentation on tips that fit into the acronym NETWORK (coincidence? I think not).

N—Never leave home without your business card. (Keep them everywhere.)

E—Establish, extend, exchange, engage. (Keep up the small talk and pass on those cards.)

T—Tag teams. (Bring someone else into the network.)

W—Work the pond. (Develop a plan to meet new people at an event.)

O—Opportunity is everywhere. (Apply the six degrees of Kevin Bacon concept.)

R—Repeat, repeat, repeat. (Introduce yourself to everyone in sight and be memorable.)

K—Keep it going. (Follow up with birthdays, cards and e-mails. Be creative.)

As hard as it is to admit that a successful career may be greatly attributed to living by this acronym, we must acknowledge that humankind does not exist in a vacuum.

Furthermore, our ability to schmooze is almost central to our existence, and, admirable or not, possessing this skill can be an asset. It is a shame that this workshop is not offered to more people on campus, especially recent alumni and grads. It not only prompts regular frogs to go for a swim in the pond but also encourages toads to be, well, less toad-like.

Post editorial has it wrong—Iraqi war unjust

'Don't tout the word "democracy" like it feeds people, provides them with security or jobs'

by Sean Kennedy

The *National Post*'s Sept. 20 editorial had the title "18 months later, still a just war." The crux of its argument boiled down to, "Absent a war, Saddam Hussein would still be in power, running his country in the way he always had and threatening to turn the entire Persian Gulf into Greater Iraq at nuclear gunpoint."

This war is not justifiable, at least not with such a simple argument.

If the war was waged because of the threat of weapons of mass destruction, then the justification for war in Iraq demands that the United States immediately and unilaterally declare war on Israel, Iran and North Korea. All three show evidence (at least as credible, if not more, in comparison to Iraq) that nuclear weapons development is occurring.

They are all states that have shown hostility to their neighbours. Therefore they are all subject to the unilateral invasion according to the logic of the Iraq invasion.

Moreover, why is the United States actively co-operating with Pakistan, a nuclear power with regional hostility, strong fundamentalist sentiments and territorial ambitions?

And surely no one is so slow-witted as to believe that the war in Iraq is justifiable according to the abuses of Hussein on his own people. If that were the case, there would be a very large list of countries for the U.S. to unilaterally invade.

Iraq did not and does not hold a monopoly on the abuse of prisoners and minorities. It is simply convenient for Hussein's Iraq to be painted a brutal dictatorship while other nations' crimes against humanity go unnoticed, unaddressed and unprevented.

I understand that the argument by comparison gets old. Just because injustices are tolerated in other parts of the world does not mean that injustice in Iraq must be. However, before the war in Iraq can be considered justifiable, the situation for the people in Iraq prior to its invasion must be proven to be better than afterward. And don't tout the word "democracy" like it feeds people, provides them with security or jobs or some sense of satisfaction that makes everything that is happening there all seem better. People are dying there, every day.

Appeasing Saddam would have been far worse, the pro-war advocates argue.

A fact. Undeniable. Of course they can bring Hitler out from the argument bag and say, "See what happens when you appease a dictator?"

Really now? I don't believe it for a second. Iraqis are dying in droves, reconstruction really hasn't occurred and stability in the Middle East is not exactly at a high point.

Will this get better?

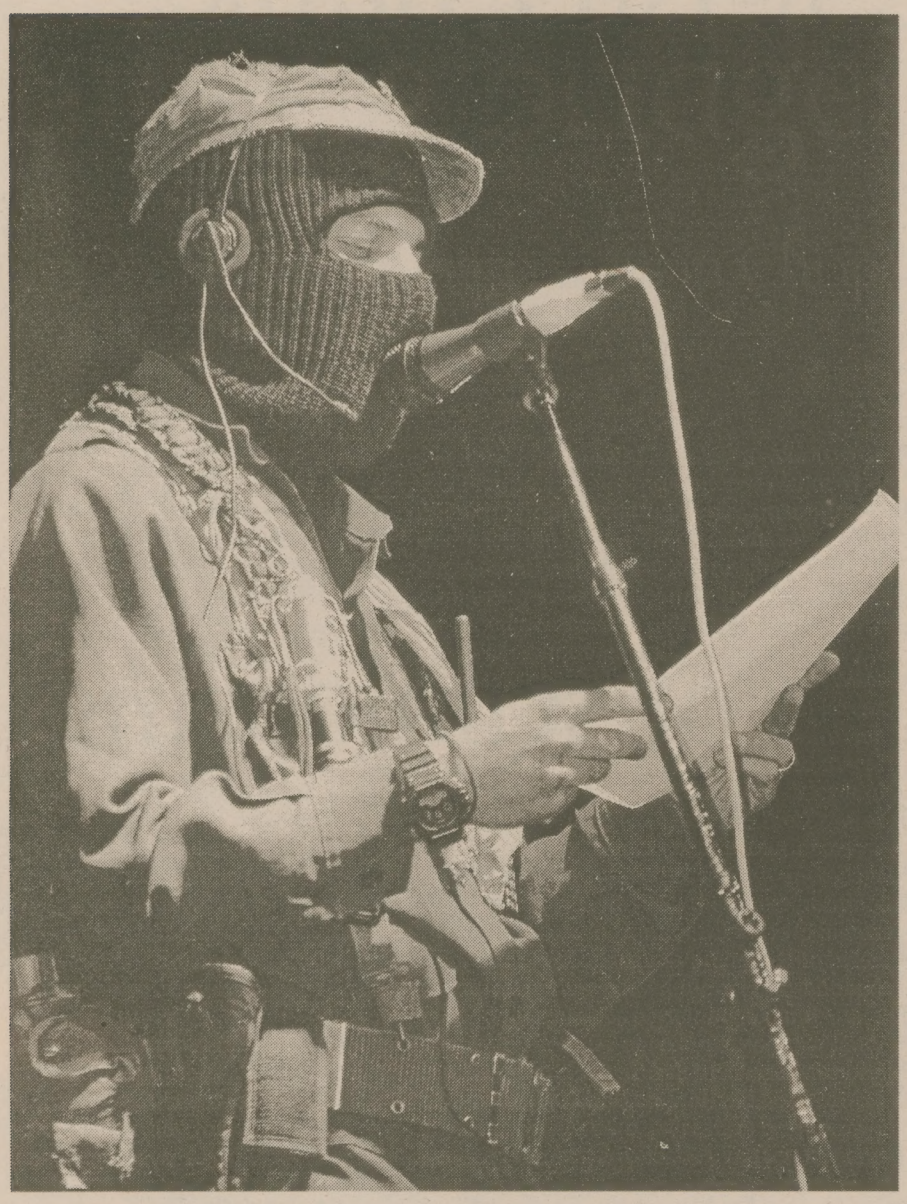
I'm sure at some point the troops occupying Iraq will move out, and news coverage in the area will dwindle to a negligible amount. We will believe that stability has returned to Iraq, and in some sense I believe it will have.

But it will be the stability of another totalitarian regime "cracking down on terrorists" in a manner that makes words like "democracy," "due process" and "social justice" look like a taunting, bad joke. The democracy brought to Iraq will either be a) short-lived, followed by a civil war or dissolution of any fair electoral process, or b) rigged to all hell, which is surely what the January election there will be.

The fact of the matter is that a democracy can really only thrive when certain necessary preconditions have been met, including stability, an educated and fairly secular middle class, and some modicum of national identity. Iraq has none of these things in the necessary proportions.

Tyranny will return to Iraq in short order, if you believe it is not there already. So all that will have been done, in the end, is the removal of one man from power. I hope all those dead Iraqis were worth it.

www.martlet.ca WHY, IT'S BETTER THAN PIE!



Sub-Comandante Marcos addresses a crowd of supporters in Puebla, Mexico, during the "March of Indigenous Dignity."

Eleven-year-old Alfonso works in a cornfield on a ranch reclaimed by the Zapatistas.

Building

Observing hu

story and photos by Tim Boultbee

Most Canadians go to Mexico to escape our long, cold winters by lying on a sandy beach for a week or two. For Joanne Cuffe, however, going south will be an opportunity to be a human rights observer in Chiapas, Mexico's most southern state.

Cuffe, a third-year political science student at the University of Victoria, belongs to a local organization called the Building Bridges Human Rights Project in Chiapas.

"I had been reading about what indigenous communities in Chiapas have been doing," said Cuffe, "and decided to attend a human rights training workshop that Building Bridges was holding last October."

Building Bridges is non-profit, non-partisan human rights organization founded in Victoria in 1996. The organization works in conjunction with the Fray Bartolome Human Rights Centre and Elance Civil, two Mexican non-governmental organizations (NGOs) located in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas.

Building Bridges began sending human rights volunteers to Chiapas after February 1995 when the Mexican army invaded communities throughout the state in an attempt to kill or arrest leaders of the Zapatista indigenous movement.

To date, Building Bridges has sent dozens of volunteers to villages throughout Chiapas to document cases of human rights abuses and the ongoing conflict in that state. Volunteers also give public talks on Chiapas and have developed a training workshop to prepare observers like Cuffe for their work. Building Bridges also responds to urgent actions sent by the human rights organization Fray Bartolome Centre and solidarity organizations, such as the Mexico Solidarity Network, when human rights abuses against Zapatista communities or alleged Zapatista supporters occur.

The Zapatistas made headlines around the world when they briefly occupied several towns in Chiapas on Jan. 1, 1994. The indigenous uprising coincided with the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which threatens what the Zapatistas see as their pre-Columbian culture that binds them to the land they cultivate. Until NAFTA was negotiated, communal lands, called *ejidos*, were covered under Article 27 of the Mexican constitution. Both the constitution and the *ejidos* were the result and purpose of the original Mexican revolution of 1910-19 led by Emiliano Zapata. Under Article 27, farmers' lands were protected as *ejidos* could not be bought or sold, but were passed down from one generation to the next. In negotiating NAFTA, the Mexican government changed Article 27 allowing these communal lands to be bought, sold or rented. To the Zapatistas, these changes struck a nerve that manifested its indignation in the pre-dawn light when the Zapatistas marched down from the mountains and said to the Mexican government "Basta ya!" (Enough is enough!)

Response to the January uprising was swift and brutal. In the days following the rebellion over 100 people, most of them Zapatista supporters, were killed. Some had their hands tied behind their backs and were executed. Finally, on Jan. 12, 1994, the Mexican government bowed to national and international pressure by announcing a cease-fire. Several days later, negotiations between the Zapatistas and the government began in an effort to resolve the conflict. But the negotiations went nowhere, and on Feb. 9, 1995, the newly elected government of Ernesto Zedillo decided to try and resolve the conflict by sending in the army. Thousands of villagers fled into the mountains and the Zedillo government quickly found itself under pressure from Mexico and the world to halt its military action. Zedillo responded by ordering the military to retreat. Two months later, negotiations between the Zedillo government and the Zapatistas began. The talks led to the Feb. 16, 1996, signing of the San Andres Accords on Indigenous Rights and Culture.

The San Andres Accords were the first *mesa* (table) in a series of dialogues that were going to be addressed once the initial accords were ratified by President Zedillo. Other tables of discussion included women's rights, education, democracy and justice. The first *mesa* was not, as some government officials and others proclaimed, a peace agreement. Nevertheless, the Mexican president refused to sign the documents negotiated by his representatives and the Zapatista leadership. Instead, Zedillo tore them up and sent the Zapatistas an accord written by his own office. The Zapatistas dismissed the president's document, and in August 1996 they discontinued all talks with the government, saying they wanted nothing more to do with the "mal gobierno" (bad government).

For a while, it seemed the accords were dead. Instead, they were dormant and remained so until Mexico's election in 2000, which saw Vicente Fox, ex-President of Coca-Cola in Latin America, square off against Zedillo's anointed successor, Francisco Labastida. During the campaign, Fox said that if he became president, he would send the original San Andres Accords to Mexico's Congress. After winning the election, he fulfilled his pledge. The Zapatistas responded by saying they would travel to Mexico City in order to lobby Congress to ratify the San Andres Accords.

The March of Indigenous Dignity that took place between Feb. 25 and March 11, 2001, catapulted the Zapatistas onto the national and international stage once again. Tracing the route taken by Emiliano Zapata in 1914, the 23 Zapatista leaders and sub-comandante Marcos (who is probably the most well known Zapatista thanks in part to his biting critiques of the Mexican government and the country's political leaders) addressed thousands of people as they threaded their way to the Mexican capital.

The Zapatistas also participated in the Third

Comandante Ester addresses delegates at the 3rd Nation

g bridges

human rights in Chiapas

Members of the Mexican military drive by a Zapatistas community, part of the low-intensity warfare.

National Indigenous Congress in Nurio, Michoacan, where representatives from 41 of Mexico's 52 indigenous peoples unanimously endorsed the San Andres Accords on Indigenous Rights and Culture. But addressing the Mexican Congress proved to be more difficult than expected because the politicians debated whether or not men and women wearing balaclavas should be allowed to address Mexico's top governing body. Even members of Fox's party—the National Action Party—were not happy about the prospect of having to meet the eyes of the four-member Zapatista delegation. Finally, just over two weeks after the Zapatistas became the first leaders of a revolutionary organization to enter Mexico City since Zapata and Pancho Villa in 1914, they were permitted to make their case in front of Mexico's Congress.

For their part, Congress pretended to listen. A month later, they passed the accords but had taken out key issues pertaining to land ownership and use of resources on that land. Infuriated by the betrayal, the Zapatistas broke off any further contacts with the Fox government. To date, there have been no words between the two adversaries. In fact, it seems that Chiapas is not even on the government's radar, as officials believe they kept a campaign promise.

In a 2004 report on Mexico, however, Amnesty International mentions that a UN special rapporteur on indigenous rights and freedoms recommended that the Fox government amend the contentious accords and resume negotiations with the Zapatistas.

Meanwhile in Chiapas, the armed forces that had retreated from Zapatista communities under orders from Zedillo back in 1995 set up encampments throughout the state, often on the doorstep of Zapatista sympathizer communities. In the Zapatista village of Roberto Barrios, for example, people have to pass through a military base located on the only road linking the community to the outside world. Villagers are often photographed and videoed as they pass. The military has also helped train and equip paramilitary groups to target Zapatista supporters such as Jose Arias Santis, who was murdered this past August. Santis is another victim in a war euphemistically known as low intensity warfare (LIW). Instead of two armies facing off against one another in open battle, LIW is designed to erode support for the Zapatistas by intimidating their supporters through targeted killings, as in the case of Santis. But LIW also involves military checkpoints, destruction of crops, kidnappings, rape, arbitrary detentions, threats of violence and the constant presence of between 60,000 and 70,000 troops stationed throughout Chiapas.

tional Indigenous Congress in Nurio, Michoacan.

The residents of Roberto Barrios said that a military helicopter had hovered over the village a few times and trained its guns on onlookers. Teri Reid, a local Building Bridges volunteer who spent several weeks as an observer in the town of Acteal in March 2000, reported that the community was surrounded by the military, who used to drive through the town on a daily basis. The military has also brought in drugs and prostitution and has attempted to pin any growing and smuggling of drugs in Chiapas on the Zapatistas.

The conflict in Chiapas pits the civilian, mainly indigenous, agrarian population against those who opposed their demands for health care, education, food, water, justice, dignity and land. With proven oil reserves, hydroelectric power, uranium deposits, ranching, timber and rich soil, Chiapas is Mexico's wealthiest resource state, yet economically, for the most part, the people are the poorest in the country.

"We are the product of 500 years of struggle," the Zapatistas wrote in the first "Declaration from the Lacandon Jungle," which declared war on the Mexican government in 1994. "[There] is no peace or justice for ourselves and our children."

Figures provided by Mexico's National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Information confirm the Zapatistas' claims of being "the dispossessed." Peter Rosset, executive director of the Institute for Food and Development Policy (Food First) and Shea Cunningham, a research assistant at Food First, write that only 67 per cent of the households in Chiapas have electricity and only 58 per cent have running water. The literacy rate is 69 per cent.

By the beginning of the 20th century, Rosset and Cunningham note, "The fertile lands of the region were mostly occupied by cattle ranchers and sugar, coffee and cotton plantations, while the indigenous people of Chiapas were forced to farm the thin, rocky soils found on the steep slopes of the highlands. The indigenous people not only lost their lands, but have also been subject to centuries of fierce racism and discrimination on the part of the dominant Ladino [mixed blood] society."

Human rights observers like Joanne Cuffe and Teri Reid have been familiarizing themselves with the history of Chiapas and the current situation in that state well before they head south. For Cuffe, going to Chiapas as an observer will give her a chance to see the conditions in which the people live first-hand, instead of through the lenses of academia. Cuffe said that she doesn't expect being an observer will be easy but feels the biggest threat will be bacteria in the water. She expects the work to be "emotionally draining."

Reid knows all about the emotional roller coaster of being a human rights observer. Between February and March 2000 she was in Acteal, a community that experienced the worst massacre since the 1994 uprising. On Dec. 22, 1997, a paramilitary group opposed to the Zapatistas and their allies gunned down and hacked to death 46 people—mainly women and children—while a detachment of state police stood by some 200 metres away.

For Reid, who had to pass through two military checkpoints to reach Acteal and was photographed by the military during her stay, being an observer was both "profound" and "depressing." It was profound because she was inspired by the residents' "positive attitudes and their appreciation of life and each other" and depressing "because of the presence of the military."

"I didn't feel afraid for my own life," said Reid, who got involved with Building Bridges in 1999. "I know as a human rights observer that I made a difference to the peace of mind of the community. I was a detriment to a possible escalation of violence."

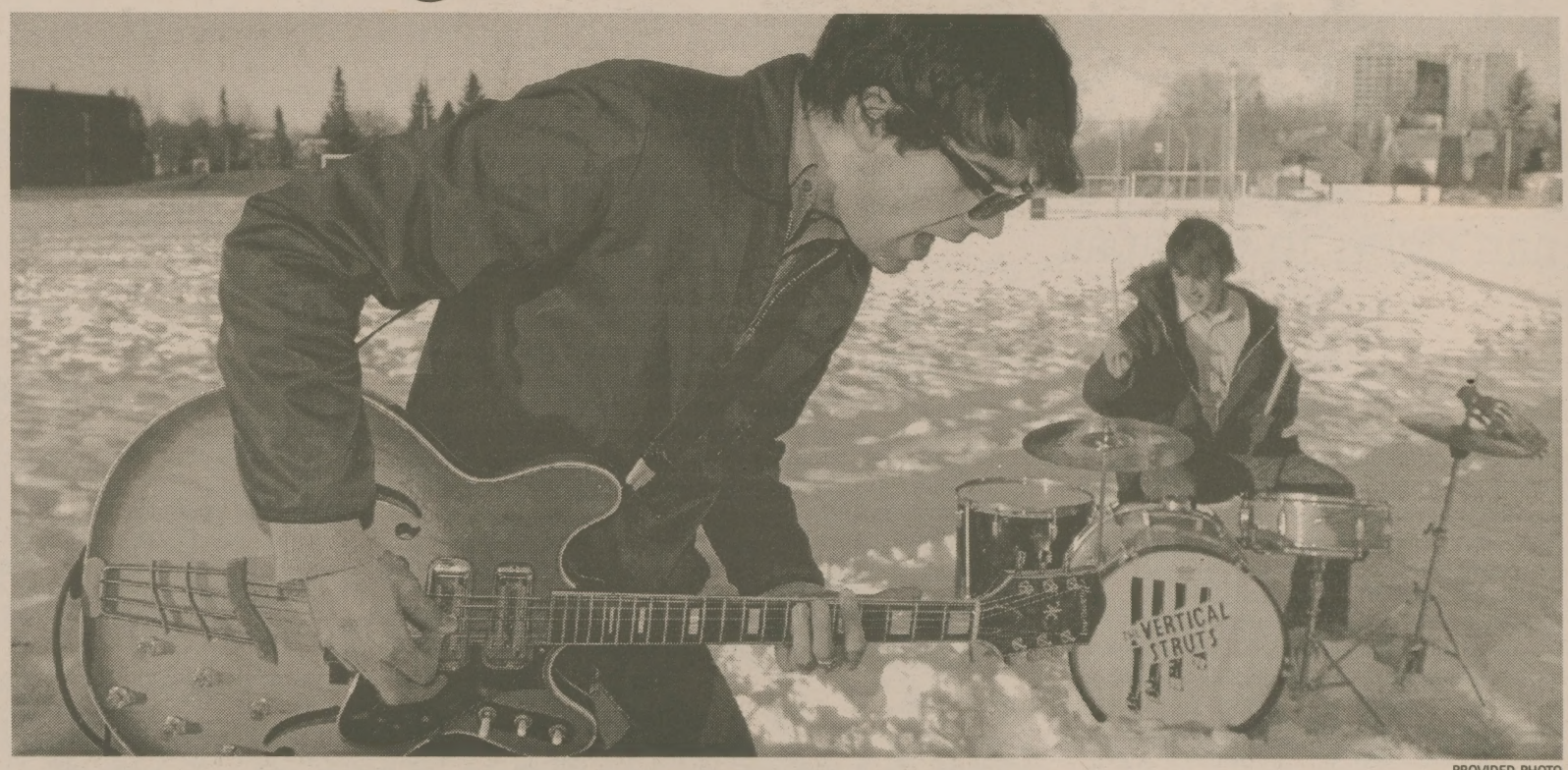
Cuffe agrees that the presence of observers can reduce the levels of violence that threaten the civilian population. "There were no human rights observers in Acteal at the time [of the 1997 massacre]," she said. "Many people speculate that if there had been international observers there to witness the violence, [the massacre] might not have occurred."

Building Bridges Victoria is sponsoring another human rights workshop from Oct. 22 to 24. To contact the group, call 384-7843.

Just out to have a good time

The Vertical Struts blend garage rock and social acceptance

by Chris Devalud



PROVIDED PHOTO

Not only do The Vertical Struts rock out on vintage '60s instruments, their album comes in candy red and is printed on vinyl.

Sometimes when two people meet, there is an instant connection that results in a whole bunch of chaotically organized, sugar-high, retro, garage rock. For those of you who don't know what this style of music entails, just think about sweaty basements, crowded house parties, broken guitar strings and dancing.

Freelance illustrator Raymond Biesinger and theatre producer Trevor Anderson have created a band that is a little bit of everything. They are half-straight, half-queer and mostly retro—yet their sound is clear. They are The Vertical Struts, one of Edmonton's popular independent bands.

Consisting of only two members, The Vertical Struts have been involved in Edmonton's independent music scene for almost three years. Their unique retro style is one of the band's most appealing attributes. As a refreshing alternative to the modern technology craze that has been engulfing mainstream music, these musicians use only '60s instruments, which proves that raw talent and creativity can create good music.

"The instruments," says Anderson, "are all from the '60s because it just feels right."

And it definitely sounds right. Their latest release, which includes the songs "Plans for Her" and "Blues from an Airplane," illustrates the band's ability to blend garage rock with foot-tapping rhythm. The most interesting part of the new album is that it does not try to be "new" at all—it comes in candy red and is printed on vinyl. Anderson claims that the point of this is to capture the nostalgia that one feels when viewing old record collections. To a fan, it just seems logical that a band that uses '60s instruments should be using '60s media as well.

In a departure from most mainstream rock, The Vertical Struts try to reach out to as many homosexual people as they can by focusing their lyrics on themes of queerness.

"It is a very big part of what we are about," claims Anderson, who points to the difficulty homosexuals have had expressing themselves, especially in small communities. As a result, The Vertical Struts have become a forerunner in gay acceptance by openly admitting that their lyrics come from "boys writing about boys."

"The press didn't touch it for awhile, but the gayness has always been there," claims Anderson. "We are not hiding it."

Regardless of their sexuality, the band maintains that they are really just out to have a good time. When asked what they want their fans to get out of the music, Anderson merely replied, "When we play, we hope our fans dance or at least tap their feet."

As for the band name, it is based on the famous picture of the World Trade Center's remaining struts. Yet in a clear example of the band's good humour and approachable attitude, Anderson admits (with a beforehand warning of cheesiness) that he likes to think of their name as meaning "it only takes two to raise a roof."

The Vertical Struts will be playing in Victoria with the Fine Options on Oct. 2 at Logan's Pub. Be sure to bring your dancing shoes.

Boompa compilation shies away from mainstream

by Rena Blom

If you're looking for a compilation of new and fun music—tunes that you would be hard-pressed to find on the radio—Vancouver-based Boompa Records has just what you're looking for. *Boompa Vol. 1* hit stores last month and provides a sneak peek at some of the music that the label will be releasing over the next year.

Members of the popular indie-pop band The Salteens—frontman Scott Walker and guitar/trumpet player Rob Calder—created Boompa Records out of what they call "necessity."

"If you're making music that might not necessarily fit into mainstream then you need to find a way to get your music out there," Walker explains. He describes getting started in the music industry as being similar to "building a house . . . you need all the right people in the right place and at the right time."

One of the main goals of Boompa is to make this process easier for artists. By providing artists with the support and the resources they need, Walker says that the label helps to widen the window of opportunity for underground and up-coming musicians.

Boompa Vol. 1 is a great sampler collection containing 14 tracks of both album material and previously unreleased songs. Some of the tracks carry a similar vibe to The Salteens' own music: fun, upbeat and unpretentious. This should come as no surprise seeing as how most of the bands carried by the label are those with whom The Salteens have worked in the past.

"The cool thing about having a label," says Walker, "is becoming involved with people whose work you really appreciate. It's like expanding your family. Take Kevin Kane, for example. My friends and I loved [Kane's former band] The Grapes of Wrath when we were kids. We even tried to dress like them."

Some highlights on this album include the reworked version of "Time You Have Been Wasting" from The Salteens and Kiddo's song "This Could Take Forever," which Walker describes as embodying "all the good things about indie-pop music [because] it makes you want to sing, jump and scream."

For something a little more mellow, you can turn to Kane's version of "Follow You Down" and to the soaring electric pop song "Rip the Universe" by Reverie Sound Revue. Boompa chose this song simply for "posterity" (the band is no longer together), and it's inclusion exemplifies the label's commitment to giving listeners a chance to simply hear some really good music. The beautifully melodic and catchy "Stay" from new group The Ladies and Gentleman is in itself reason enough to check out this compilation.

So what is there to look forward to from Boompa Records in the future? New releases from Billy and The Lost Boys, as well as Victoria's own Run Chico Run came out in September. As for The Salteens themselves, we can expect a new release within the year. Visit www.boompa.ca for more information on the bands and show dates.

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Bloody wounds and flying plumbers—a recipe for great art.

The art of video games

by Sacha Narine

"A masterpiece of the art form."

That's what PC Gamer magazine called *Doom 3*, a new action game for the PC and Xbox. For now, *Doom 3* rules the realm of computer graphics. Specular bump mapping, dynamic shadows and other jargon-tastic graphics technologies have convinced some game critics (and fans) that *Doom 3* is art and that video games are an art form.

Are they?

If you're not a fan of video games, chances are you've still got a working knowledge of *Super Mario Brothers*, *Pong* and maybe even the original *Doom*. If you recall, *Doom* was one of many games that evoked the wrath of U.S. Senator Joseph Lieberman, who has long been a reactionary opponent of video game violence.

If your only memories of video games involve *Pac-Man* or Atari, or a mustachioed, Italian plumber who eats giant mushrooms and curbstomps turtles, you might answer my two-word question with a two-letter answer: no. Well, hang on a second, friend. Let's take a quick look at some other games, games you should purchase, play and cherish until death do you part. These games deserve to be called art. (Hey, that rhymes!)

Starcraft, a strategy game for the PC, received orgasmic critical acclaim and ear-gasmic fan praise like "Super sweet!" and "OMG, this game rulz." Taiwan and Korea televise games of *Starcraft*, and top players win big money in "cyber-athletic" tournaments. The art of *Starcraft* lies in its hidden complexity. It is a heady game of skill wrapped up in a violent, cartoonish sci-fi war. It's easy to play, hard to master and impossible to quit. (1998)

Deus Ex evades classification. It is an immersive, interactive story available for both the PC and Playstation 2 (PS2). *Deus Ex* derives its odd name from the Latin phrase "deus ex machina," meaning "god from a machine." It's a character-driven hybrid of action, role-playing, strategy and stealth. Most importantly, *Deus Ex* proves that video games can entertain in a way that no movie or book ever can—by revolving around you, the player, as you assume the role of JC Denton, the baddest video game dude since the titular characters of *Bad Dudes* for Nintendo. (2000)

Max Payne 2 may have a goofy name, but play it and you'll know why. It channels classic film noir like *The Maltese Falcon* and *Touch of Evil* to dredge up a dark, stylish, melodramatic atmosphere that draws you in for the not-so-long haul (the game is about 10 hours long). A fantastic slow-motion effect gives the action sequences a cinematic flavor—*Max Payne 2* is the kind of game that will impress your game-phobic friends and spark your romantic sensibilities. This is a game that tells a love story, and (amazingly) doesn't screw it up. *Max Payne 2* is available for PS2, Xbox and PC. (2003)

Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time conjures such mystical, elegant images that I can only describe them as . . . uh . . . mystical and elegant. The game, often referred to as PoP, uses a technology called "bloom to highlight" and blends its graphics into something that resembles a watercolor version of Disney's *Aladdin*. Along with visual beauty, PoP offers exciting action and clever puzzles, as well as a fun fantasy story to satisfy your inner bookworm. Since it's available for the PC, Xbox, Gamecube and PS2, *Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time* is one of the most accessible games around. Just pick your system, buy the game and enjoy. (2003)

If you've played some of these titles and you're not convinced that video games are an art form, keep an eye on upcoming issues of *the Martlet* for more suggestions. Games are assimilating the strengths of other entertainment media by merging with film, usurping dramatic narrative and forging imaginary worlds as wondrous and diverse as our own. *Mario* and *Tetris* will always be around to mangle your GPA, but someday, when the moon shines bright and the waves crash loud, video games will stand alongside films, plays and novels as stimulating, even beautiful, works of art.

New album shifts toward generic rock

The Tea Party
Seven Circles
Atlantic

by Rebecca Peric

The Tea Party needs no introduction. Music junkies and less-obsessed music fans alike know the name, and the band has become a prominent force in the world of music. Although often identified as a rock band, their music cannot be assigned any specific genre. The closest thing to doing them justice would be to say they're "alternative," but that still doesn't even come close.

The Tea Party is frequently associated with the rock genre because their music combines haunting electric guitar, bass and piano with hard, probing drums. But it has more of an enchantingly supernatural feel than most straight-up rock.

If it were not for Jeff Martin's recognizable voice, track one on *Seven Circles*, "Writings on the Wall," could easily be mistaken as the work of a new rock band influenced by the Tea Party. And so starts their newest album, which could easily be labelled the band's very first rock album. Although tracks two through 11 definitely have more of the previous Tea Party in them than just Martin's vocals, they still have a definite touch of so-called "rock" music.

In *Seven Circles*, the Tea Party has less of an experimental sound to them and (dare I say) almost moves closer to the sound of the more conventional modern rock acts we hear so often on the radio. "Almost" is the operative word because, although the Tea Party's latest has slightly shifted towards generic rock, they're still the amazing band we've come to know and love.

The popularity of "Writings on the Wall," which has been played and requested on radio stations too many times to count, is proof of their success with their new sound. Waiting for the Tea Party to hit the stage of the Plaza of Nations on Aug. 28, a friend of mine said, "All I want to hear is 'Writings on the Wall.' I don't care about anything else." When the song's first notes echoed through the stadium, the whole crowd went wild.

Martlet AGM on Oct. 15

On **October 15**, the Martlet will be holding its Annual General Meeting. **All staff members must attend** this meeting as we'll be discussing important issues vital to the future of the paper.

Items on the agenda:

- Electing new Board of Directors
- Amendments to constitution and bylaws
- Renaming the office computers
- Other business

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Hate the living, love the dead

by Stephanie Bowen

There's nothing to rehabilitate a deadbeat boyfriend like flesh-eating zombies. That's the case in Edgar Wright's *Shaun of the Dead,* released last Friday to North American audiences. The film sports the tag line "A romantic comedy. With zombies," and enacts that bizarre genre fusion admirably.

Liz has reached the end of her rope with her boyfriend Shaun, calling him out on his lack of effort, complaining that they return, night after night, to the same pub with the same friends. After three years, she is ready to call it quits. Shaun, who works a dead-end job, plays too many video games with abrasive flatmate Ed and seems incapable of not bungling everything he does, wants to make it work.

Oh yeah—and a satellite has crashed into the English countryside, inciting a particularly nasty outbreak of zombies.

In a more predictable move than you'd expect, Shaun is forced to draw on as-yet untapped personal resources to lead the group to safety. What's refreshing is that he continues to bungle along the way. Although the marketing hype claims that *Shaun* deviates drastically from the norm, it fits the horror/suspense genre better than you'd think.

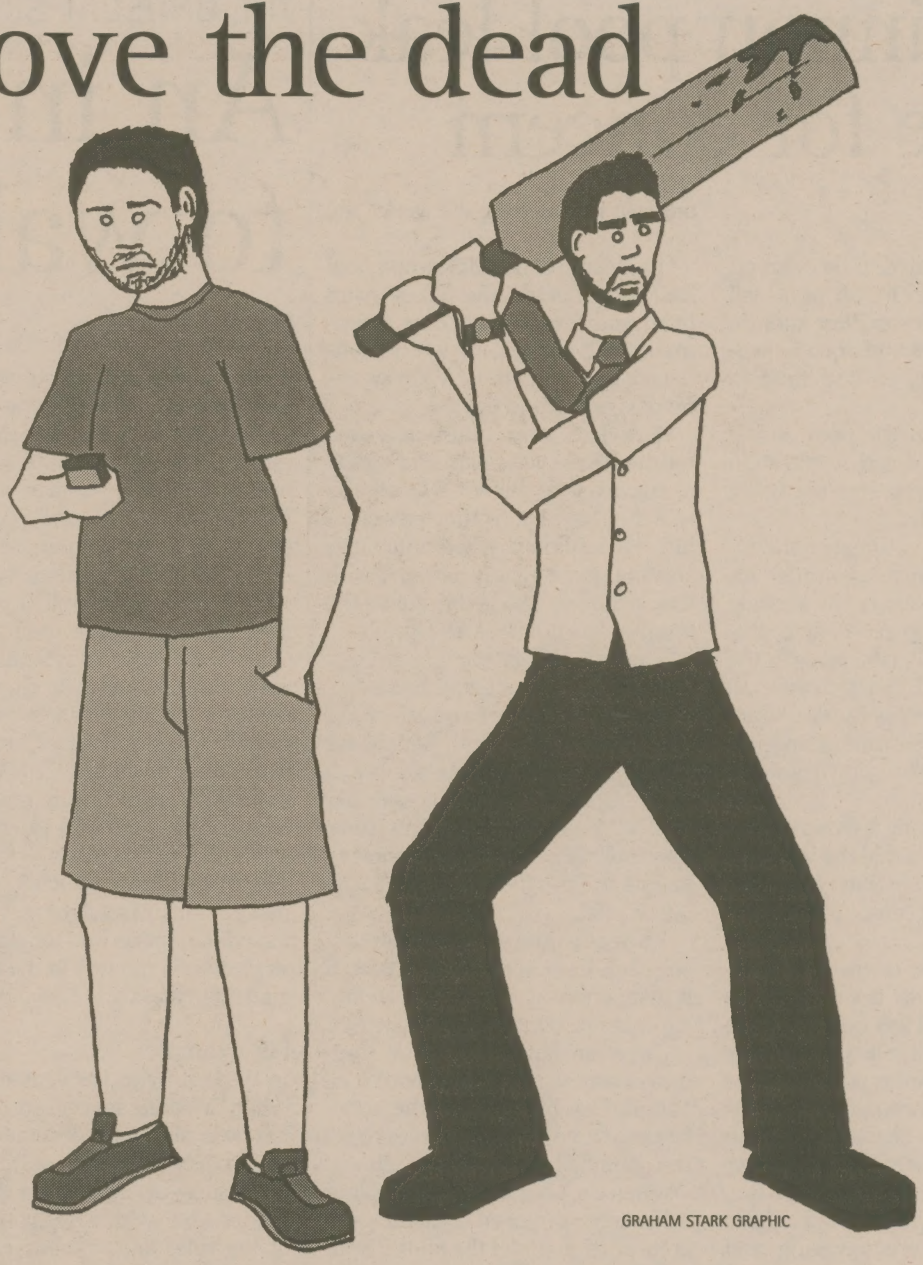
Consider your average thriller: there is uneasy order at the onset, a hint that something big is coming. The arrival of something big and nasty, the climactic fight and the ultimate defeat of said nastiness generally follow. Afterwards a new and more perfect equilibrium is established. All suspenseful films contain romance and countless moments in which the action is unrealistically paused for tearfully emotional conversation. At least *Shaun of the Dead* has the good sense to mock its own sappy moments.

As the unlikely crew of the living attempts to find shelter, Shaun berates Ed for his stupidity and self-absorption, leading to the obvious personal breakthrough about himself. A few moments in, however, their friends politely remind them of imminent flesh-eating as they turn to face legions of the undead.

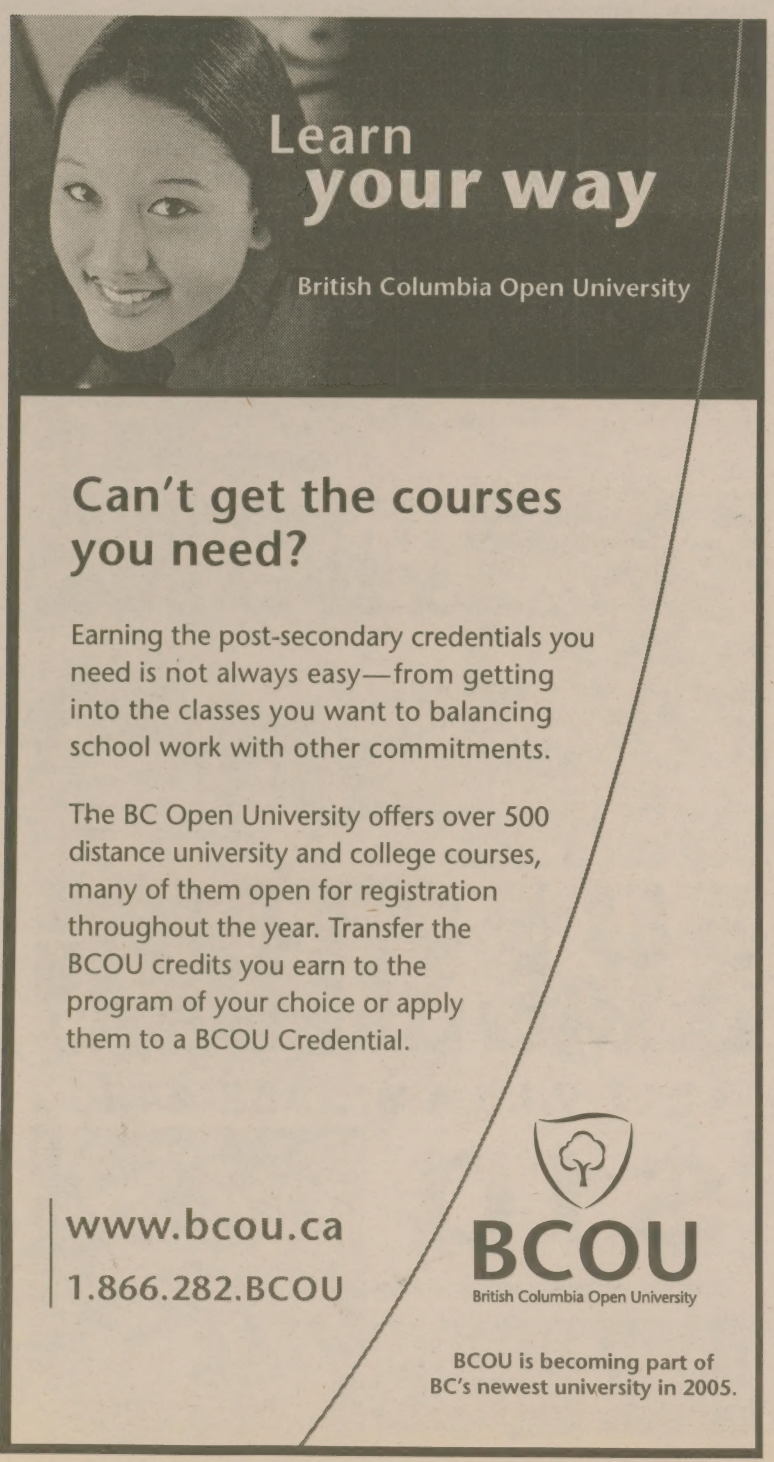
In a hopeless situation and contemplating suicide, Liz and Shaun finally get at what they're really dealing with, which isn't reanimated and hungry human skeletons but the skeletons in their shared closet. Off-camera we hear Ed say, "That's it. I would like to be shot."

Snappy writing and successful parody (think *Scary Movie* with a brain) are what really move this particular zombie flick into a category all its own. It even manages to touch on the social agenda of its classic forefather, George Romero's 1979 *Dawn of the Dead.* Where Romero pointedly drew parallels between zombies and consumer society, *Shaun* does so with your typical Gen-X lackeys, so bored with the world around them that they don't recognize disaster until it affects them directly. In their drunken, bus-riding, video-game-playing stupors, Ed and Shaun closely resemble the zombies they will later battle.

Shaun of the Dead was an instahit in Britain, its homeland, and it will be interesting to see how the film fares on our side of the pond. With its convincing dramatic moments, intelligent humour, silly sight gags and hearty dose of guts-n-gore, it may just be the only zombie movie with something for everyone.



GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC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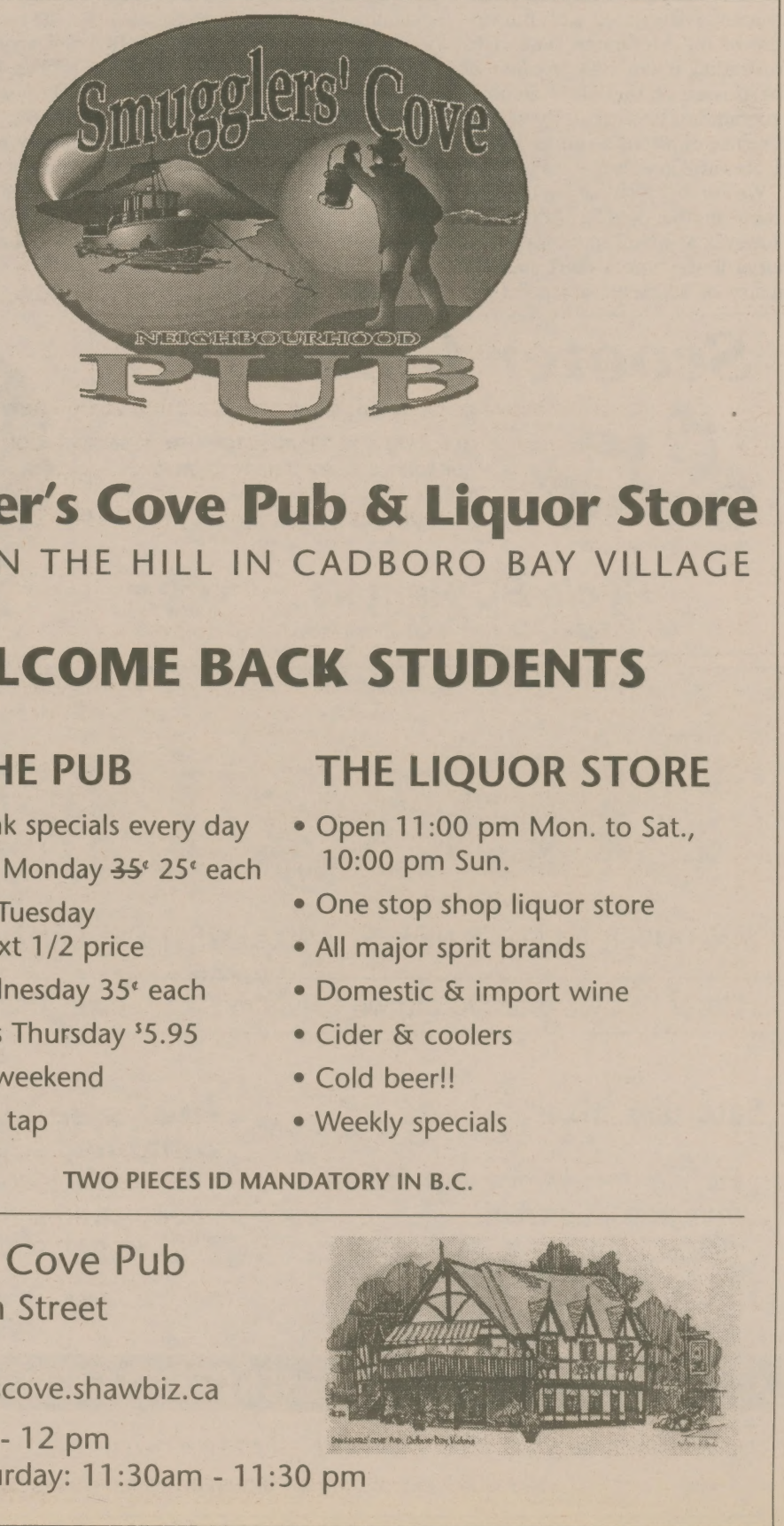
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McKinnon pool leak cause for concern

by Mike Berry

Originally scheduled to be open on Sept. 20, the McKinnon pool will remain closed for another month, leaving swimmers and aquatic programs scrambling to find time in the water.

A leak found in the pool during the installation of a new filtration system means programs are being moved or cancelled.

Linda Henderson, aquatics and informal recreation programmer for the university, has been working overtime trying to reschedule programs that usually take place in the McKinnon pool. She's trying to schedule them in the outdoor pool at the Ian H. Stewart Complex, which usually shuts down around Thanksgiving.

"All I've been doing is either calling people to tell them that the program is running over here (Ian H. Stewart Complex) or it's been cancelled," she said.

She said some teams and programs will have to get creative, as the outdoor pool will not be able to accommodate all aspects of their programs. The water polo team, for instance, will have to practice without nets. And the scuba club will no longer have access to the deep water found in the McKinnon pool.

So far the only programs that have been cancelled are kayaking and water aerobics.

Sheila Adams, a water aerobics instructor, is frustrated with the closure of the McKinnon pool. This frustration is not only because of the closure of the water aerobics program but because of the inconvenience of having to go to the Ian H. Stewart Complex.

"We are very fortunate to have access to another pool facility close by. However, as I tend to do my workout at lunch time, I don't have the luxury of taking advantage of the outdoor pool during the week," she said.

The closure of the McKinnon pool has also affected the Vikes swim team and the Pacific Coast Swimmers (PCS) program, which consists of up-and-coming Vikes swimmers ages five and up.

Mark Lancaster, assistant coach for the Vikes swim team and general manager of the PCS program, said they have been "affected quite a bit." He said they've had difficulties starting some new programs with the outdoor pool because the weather has not been co-operative.

"The young kids' parents are saying it's a bit cold outside," he said.

The PCS program and the Vikes swim team are currently jostling for time between the Commonwealth pool in Saanich and the outdoor pool at UVic. Around this time, they normally would start moving people and programs into the McKinnon pool.

"It's been a little stressful," Henderson said. "It would not have been if it happened at any other time—we've been so busy getting started."

There are normally annual shutdowns on the McKinnon pool until Labour Day, but this year the installation of a new filtration system set the opening back until Sept. 20.

When the pool was refilled, minor leaks were discovered in the concrete portion under the pool. But after plugging the leaks it was found that the temperature was not rising, meaning the water wasn't circulating properly. Water was surging into the runoff tank, but another leak could not be found.

As a result, the pool had to be drained once again. On Sept. 23, the lining under the dive tank was found to be rotten and thus the cause of the leak. The retiling is expected to take approximately one month and the pool will reopen upon its completion.

THE UNUSUAL SIDE OF SPORTS

An introduction to walking soccer

by Mike Berry

As the newly hired sports editor for *the Martlet*, it has become my responsibility to bring readers interesting news and highlights from the world of university sports.

However, my notion of sport is not strictly reserved to those on varsity teams or the teams themselves.

My reach extends well beyond the competitive, programmed and organized recreational activities to include those sports that are spontaneous, unorganized and . . . well . . . usually the result of a large consumption of highly intoxicating beverages. This brings me to the reason I have decided to write this article in the first place.

In this column, which I want to make a weekly installment, I want to introduce sports or activities that students will not find in the RecPlus guide or Vikes team schedule.

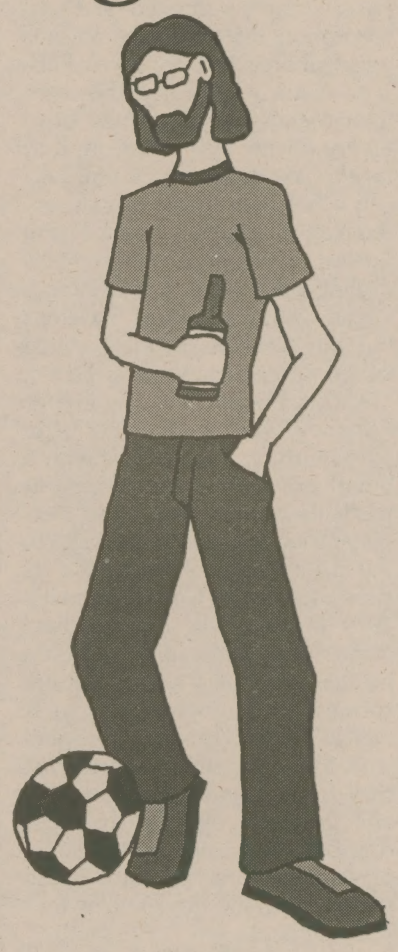
For example:

In 1999, my friends invented a game called '"walking soccer." Sure, soccer has been played for generations and there really isn't much in the way of invention—or innovation for that matter—but with a slight tweaking of the rules and, of course, booze, you'd be amazed at how games can transform.

"It's really nothing exciting," is how my roommate Ian Meredith describes the creation of the sport. "We just started playing."

It was the summer of '99 when Jimmy quit and Joey got married, and many of my friends decided to acquaint themselves with my other roommate Jamie's father, Freddie Campbell, on his farm in Exceter, Ont.

"We were sitting around on lawn chairs drinking from a bottle of whiskey," Ian said. No doubt there were also plenty of beers found on location.



GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

Since they were on a farm, there was a vast amount of space around to exploit. Ian said at one point in time I just got up and started kicking around a soccer ball. Juggling around suddenly turned into pass. At first it was simply with one other buddy, but others were in hot pursuit, the scent of creation was among them. From passing, shooting quickly evolved, as lawn chairs were flipped over and used as nets.

"At no point did anybody start running because we just didn't have it in us," Ian said.

The next thing they knew, they were engaged in a competitive game of soccer where no one was allowed to run, or no one felt like doing so was more like it. Other rules to follow would include the mandatory drink in one hand.

The game wasn't soon to be forgotten, though—that evening my friends ended up passing out in the barn. From Exceter the game was brought to our hometown of Guelph. We played it on the streets and in the parks whenever we felt the need to drink and hang outside. We took it to my buddy Kenny's cottage up on Maple Lake near Parry Sound. Now it's migrated, as have my friends and I, to B.C. The game is here to stay.

I know what you are saying: it's just soccer, what's the big deal? Well, next time you're among a group of friends, having a couple pints and see a soccer ball near by, just try it. Soon you will learn that it takes discipline not to run towards the ball when you are in chase next to an opponent. Moreover, you'll soon realize the difficulty in trying to manouevre around an opponent at such sluggish speeds.

As the game wears on and after you've polished off a few more pints, it gets even harder—not to mention the regulations tend to become more relaxed. After some body checking, pant-grabbing and empty-beer-can-throwing, it can begin in earnest.

None of my buddies will take credit with being the father of the sport. Their claim is the game was completely spontaneous. But that's not what is important. What's important is there was a game invented that was conducive to the good company of friends and their consumption of numerous bottles of alcohol. It's just as great the next day. In all, it equates to good times . . . good times.

If you know someone or have yourself a story of this nature please feel free to e-mail me at sport@martlet.ca.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

UVic swimmer succeeds in Athens
University of Victoria Vikes swimmer Stephanie Dixon has closed out the 2004 Paralympic Games with seven medals: one gold, four silver and one bronze, as well as a silver medal in relay.

Women's Soccer 3-1-1
The Vikes women's soccer team capped off an impressive road series with a win over the University of Alberta (U of A) Pandas 5-0. After three games on the road, the Vikes play at home this Thursday, Sept. 30 against the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns.

Women's Field Hockey 2-1
Though UVic lost to the University of British Columbia in the final game of the first Canada West Tourney of the season, they won their first two matches versus the U of A Pandas and the University of Calgary Dinos and currently sit second overall. Their next tourney starts Oct. 8 in Calgary.

Men's Soccer 2-1-1
The Vikes men's soccer team was able to bounce back from a first game loss with two successive wins and a tie against the U of A Bears on Sunday, completing a four game road series. They play at home Sept. 30 against the University of Lethbridge.

Men's Rugby 1-1
After a close season-opener loss, the Vikes men's rugby team responded on Saturday with a decisive 68-10 victory against Cowichan. Their next match is this coming Saturday, Oct. 2 against Pacific Pride.

compiled by Mike Berry

Vikes lose home opener against top contender

They now look towards their next match versus Abbotsford

by Emilee Gaebler

The UVic women's rugby team showed its inexperience Saturday, losing 64-5 to a more dominant Bayside College in their season opener.

It wasn't until the end of the first half, when UVic's Chelsea Llewellyn managed to score a single try that UVic appeared on the scoreboard. From then on, they were held scoreless.

Though they lost, the Vikes showed that they were ready for a big season. In the competitive game against the top-ranked community college they showed a solid defence that in the end simply wasn't enough to hold back the powerful offensive line of the Bayside Sharks.

"This is truly a rebuilding year for us," said Suzanne Chaulk, a first-year Vikings coach.

She said though they lost, the team did what was expected and now can work on elements of its game that need improvement.

The team's focus in the next few weeks will be on preparing for the Canada West Tournament and for the national championships.

"I feel that it is possible for us to win Canada West and to be a competitive team at the nationals," said Erin Lockwood, a fourth-year Vikes player.

FILE PHOTO

Dropping the ball, the Vikes vow to improve their game.

Erin recently returned from an international rugby tournament in China and said she thinks that this will be a great year for the team.

With a new head coach, the Vikings are solely focused on increasing their competitiveness at the university level. As the hosts of next year's national tournament, Chaulk looks to expand UVic's women's rugby program in order to be a top contender for the title.

Women's rugby is one of the fastest growing sports in Western Canada.

Classifieds

maned@martlet.ca

FOR HIRE

ROOF & GUTTER INSPECTION AND REPAIR/REROOF &DEMOSS **380-5685**.

African Drumming Workshop
Sunday, Oct 3, 1-4 p.m., UVic campus. Drums provided—for info. Call 384-drum.

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NANNY for 2 children. Car required--pick-up from Frank Hobbes & Arbutus schools. 11-12 hrs/wk. $10/hr + gas allowance. Phone: 721-2229

GET PAID A GUARANTEED $2,500 U.S. **EVERY MONTH TO START!** If you are between 18 to 25 years old, we will hire you to work part-time from your home. www.coyfs.com/support.html

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The Anti-Violence Project (Centre for support and Action Against Sexualized Violence and Abuse) is seeking volunteers. Contact us for info about volunteer opprotunities or to request an application. 472-4388 or avp@uvss.uvic.ca

ON CAMPUS

John Betts, diploma Candidate Jung Institute *The Fairy tale, a mirror for the basic patterns of the psyche.* Friday, October 1 at 7:30 p.m. UVic David Strong Building C116. Members $10, non-members $15

With Words: A literary Fundraiser for the Kelly Curtis Memorial Fund Sept. 30, 7-11 p.m. at I.Q. Bistro, Grad Centre. Poetry by English professors and students.
food, bar, door & raffle prizes. $15 & $7.
Info: Madeline 598-9747

UVSS Women's Centre presents Body Image Discussion Group: free group in W.C. every second Monday starting Sept. 27th, 4-5:30. contact Kristi 472-3096. kexley@uvic.ca

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wanted: Soccer Players for Premier, Div. 1 & Div. 3 teams in Gordon Head. Call Robert Gutierrez 477-8099 email gutie@shaw.ca, or call Don Murray 477-6831 email donmurray@telus.net

VENUS RISING!
The Greater Vancouver Island Sculptors Guild will have an exhibit and sale of sculpture created from a variety of materials to capture man's whimsical, emotional and imaginative relationship with the sea at The Maritime Museum of BC, Bastion Square, Victoria. Show runs from June 25 - October 17, 2004. Hours are daily from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call (250) 642-6065.

Good-Hearted Volunteers Needed!
At Recreation Integration Victoria we facilitate active lifestyles for people with disabilities. By making only a small time commitment, you could have the power to change someone's life. Looking for volunteers to provide one-on-one assistance for people with disabilities in a recreational setting. To get involved or for more information, please call Dustin at 477-6314

MENTORS NEEDED
Mentor an elementary student 1 hr/week. Play games, sports, make crafts, read and cook. For more info. call Bonnie at Big Brothers Big Sisters 475-1117, ext. 46

Women's History Month at St.Ann's Academy Friday, Oct. 1, 7-9 p.m. **Take Back the Night Walk.** Gather outside St.Ann's Academy and walk through Beacon Hill Park. Meet at the grand staircase in front of St. Ann's Academy. Sponsored by the **Women's Sexual Assault Centre.**

Be a Human Rights Observer in Chiapas, Mexico. Training session Oct. 22-24, Sponsored by the Building Bridges Human Rights Project in Chiapas. call 384-7843

FOR SALE

POOL TABLE - Not slate top. Felt is in great shape. Two cues, billboard and snooker balls. $200 obo. 721-2523

FREE-HIDE-A-BED - No tears or holes. Needs a little cleaning. 721-2523.

HOMES REQUIRED Buy a Heritage "TUGGER" Teddy Bear to help raise funds for The Cops for Cancer Campaign. All proceeds benefit research into childhood cancer and Camp Goodtimes, a summer program for children with a history of cancer. Please contact Annette Parisien at alp@uvic.ca to place your orders until Oct. 2, or call 686-5464.

1986 VW Cabriolet. White, new top, new tires & MORE!!! Runs great! $3,250 call 595-6149.

1988 Toyota Tercel. Runs well. Good student transportation. $1,200 call 658-2783.

HEY YOU!

Hey Snorf! Drop by the G-spot and give me your new digits. Fossilu.

Hey Baby - Thanks for making the trip. Love, your summer intern.

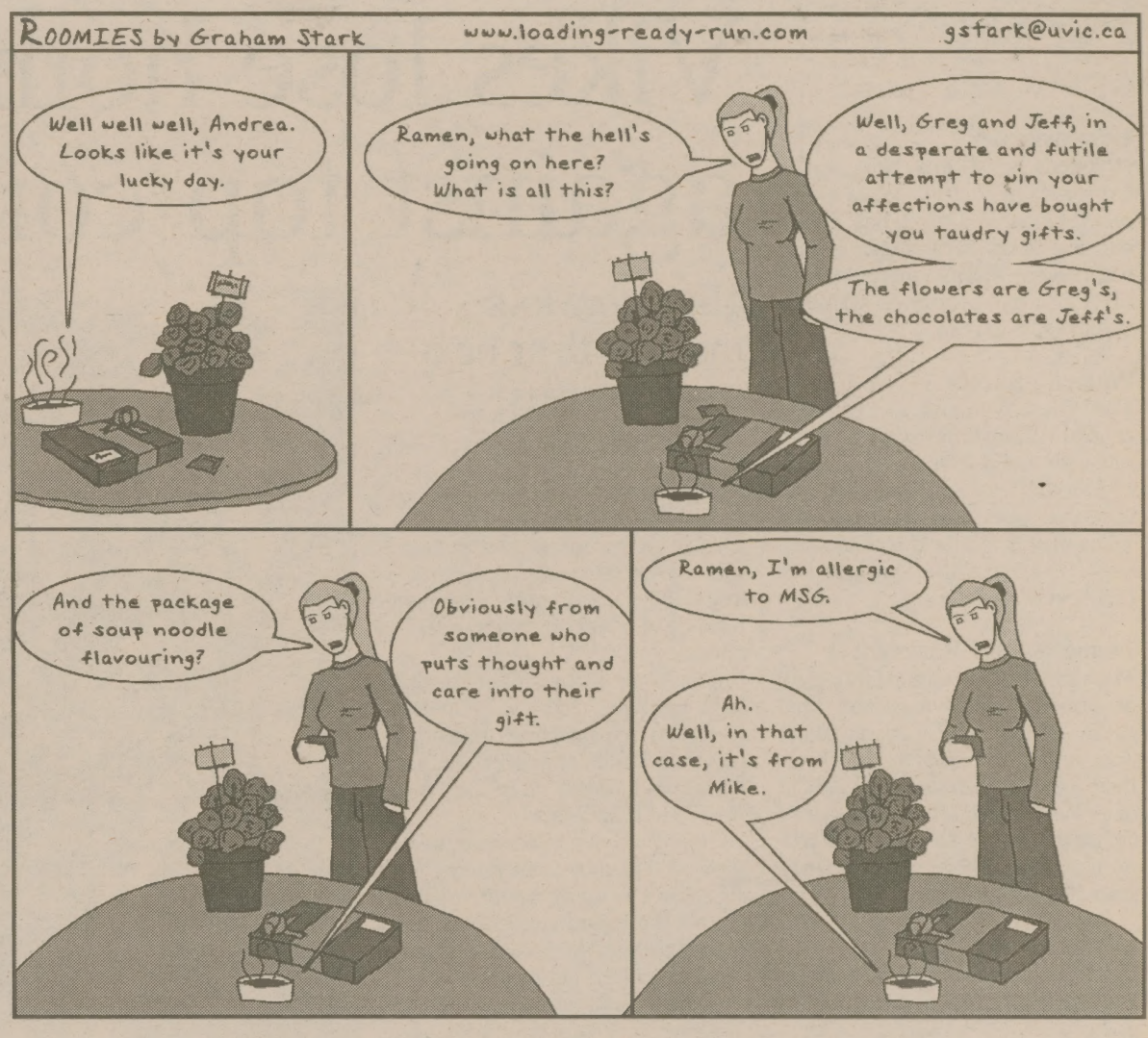
You, the dirty blonde in the corner: my crossed legs imply I am knotty in the best imaginable way.

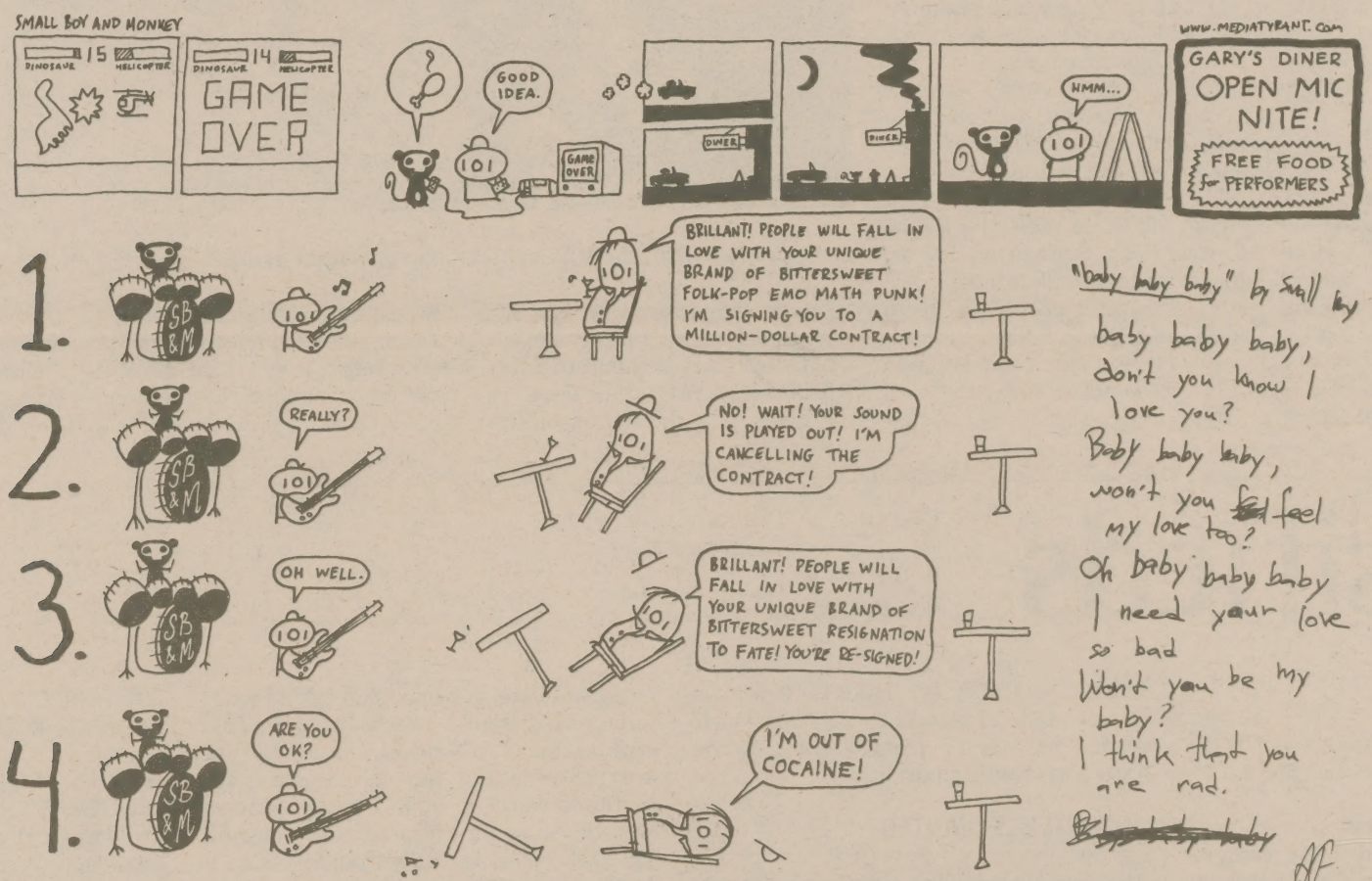
Party tonight at Smellbound's place, goons!

CLASSIFIED RATES

Students and clubs | $2/issue
Non-students | $2/line
Businesses | $6/line
Hey you! | free

SAM & FUZZY
©2004 BY SAM LOGAN
I DUNNO... MAYBE I'M JUST OUT OF TOUCH, BUT DIDN'T THOSE KIDS SEEM A BIT... YOUNG TO BE INTO DRUGS ALREADY?
THEY'RE PICKING 'EM UP YOUNGER AND YOUNGER THESE DAYS, SAM.
OH, GIMME A BREAK, YOU TWO!
SO A COUPLE KIDS ARE EXPERIMENTAL AND STUPID. THAT'S NOTHING NEW.
YEAH, BUT THIS IS DIFFERENT. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT MARIJUANA, HERE!
SO? COME ON, ALEXA. DON'T TELL ME YOU DIDN'T TRY IT AT LEAST ONCE BACK WHEN YOU WEREN'T SO SQUARE AND ELDERLY.
I CERTAINLY DID NOT. AND NEITHER DID ANY OF THE OTHER CHILDREN I GREW UP WITH!
OH YEAH... AND WHAT WAS IT LIKE GROWING UP AMONG THE AMISH?
GEE, I DON'T KNOW, ANDREA. WHAT WAS IT LIKE GROWING UP IN A CRACK DEN?!?
I AM SO SORRY I ASKED.
NEW COMICS EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY AT: WWW.SAMANDFUZZY.COM


ROOMIES by Graham Stark
www.loading-ready-run.com
gstark@uvic.ca
Well well well, Andrea. Looks like it's your lucky day.
Ramen, what the hell's going on here? What is all this?
Well, Greg and Jeff, in a desperate and futile attempt to win your affections have bought you taudry gifts.
The flowers are Greg's, the chocolates are Jeff's.
And the package of soup noodle flavouring?
Obviously from someone who puts thought and care into their gift.
Ramen, I'm allergic to MSG.
Ah. Well, in that case, it's from Mike.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1.
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BRILLANT! PEOPLE WILL FALL IN LOVE WITH YOUR UNIQUE BRAND OF BITTERSWEET FOLK-POP EMO MATH PUNK! I'M SIGNING YOU TO A MILLION-DOLLAR CONTRACT!
REALLY?
NO! WAIT! YOUR SOUND IS PLAYED OUT! I'M CANCELLING THE CONTRACT!
OH WELL.
BRILLANT! PEOPLE WILL FALL IN LOVE WITH YOUR UNIQUE BRAND OF BITTERSWEET RESIGNATION TO FATE! YOU'RE RE-SIGNED!
ARE YOU OK?
I'M OUT OF COCAINE!
"baby baby baby" by Small Boy
baby baby baby, don't you know I love you?
Baby baby baby, won't you feel my love too?
Oh baby baby baby I need your love so bad
Won't you be my baby?
I think that you are rad.

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